

SPECIAL 40TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

40TH ANNIVERSARY

HIGH TIMES

November 466



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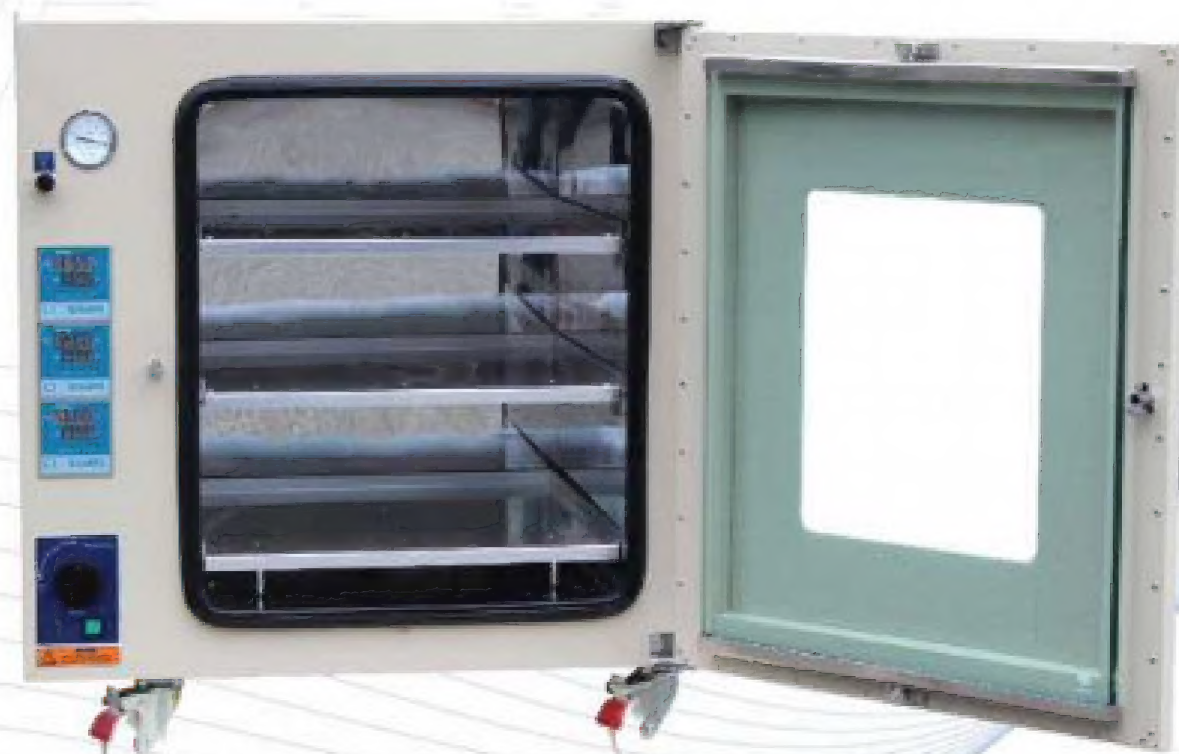
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**Picture of botanical extract
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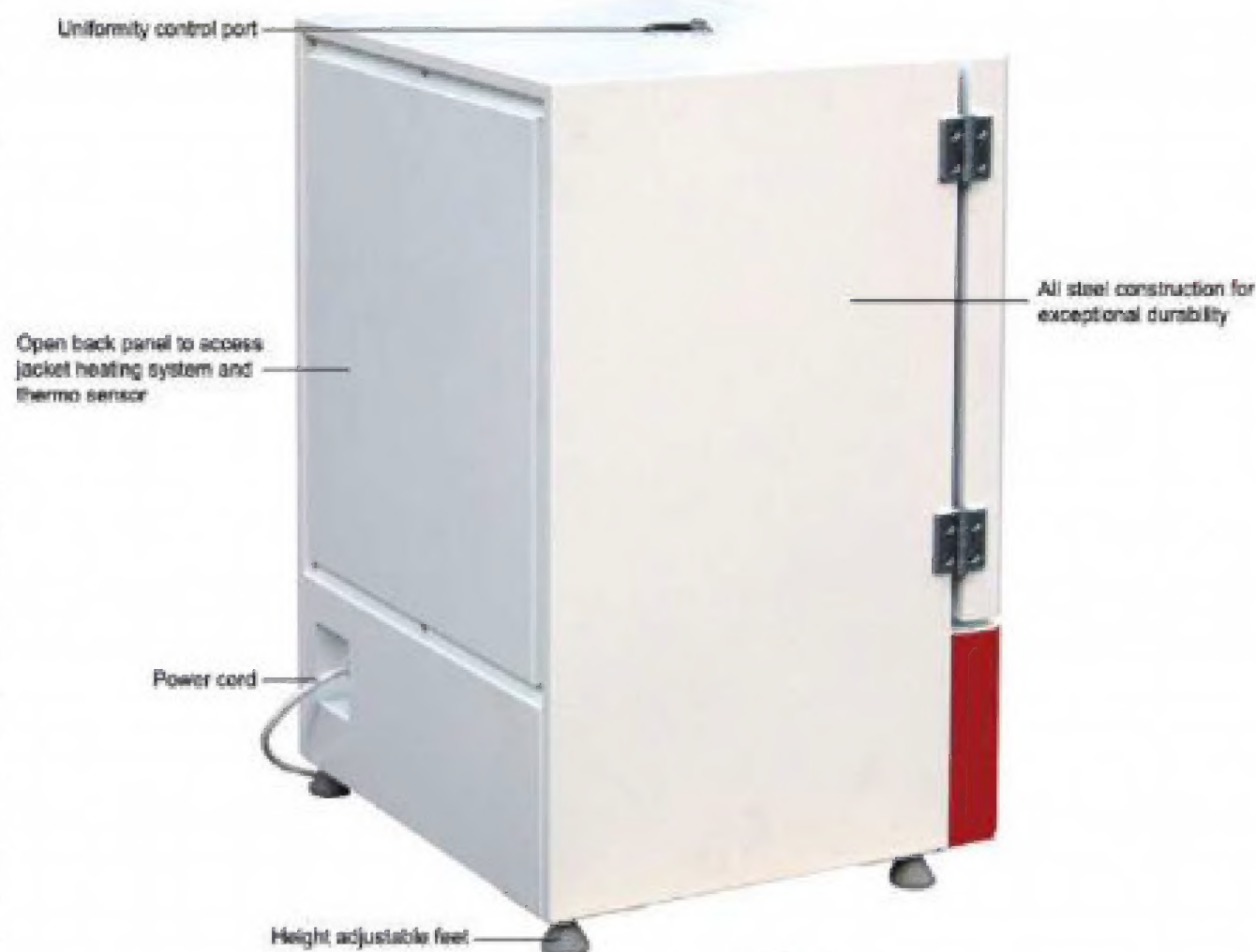
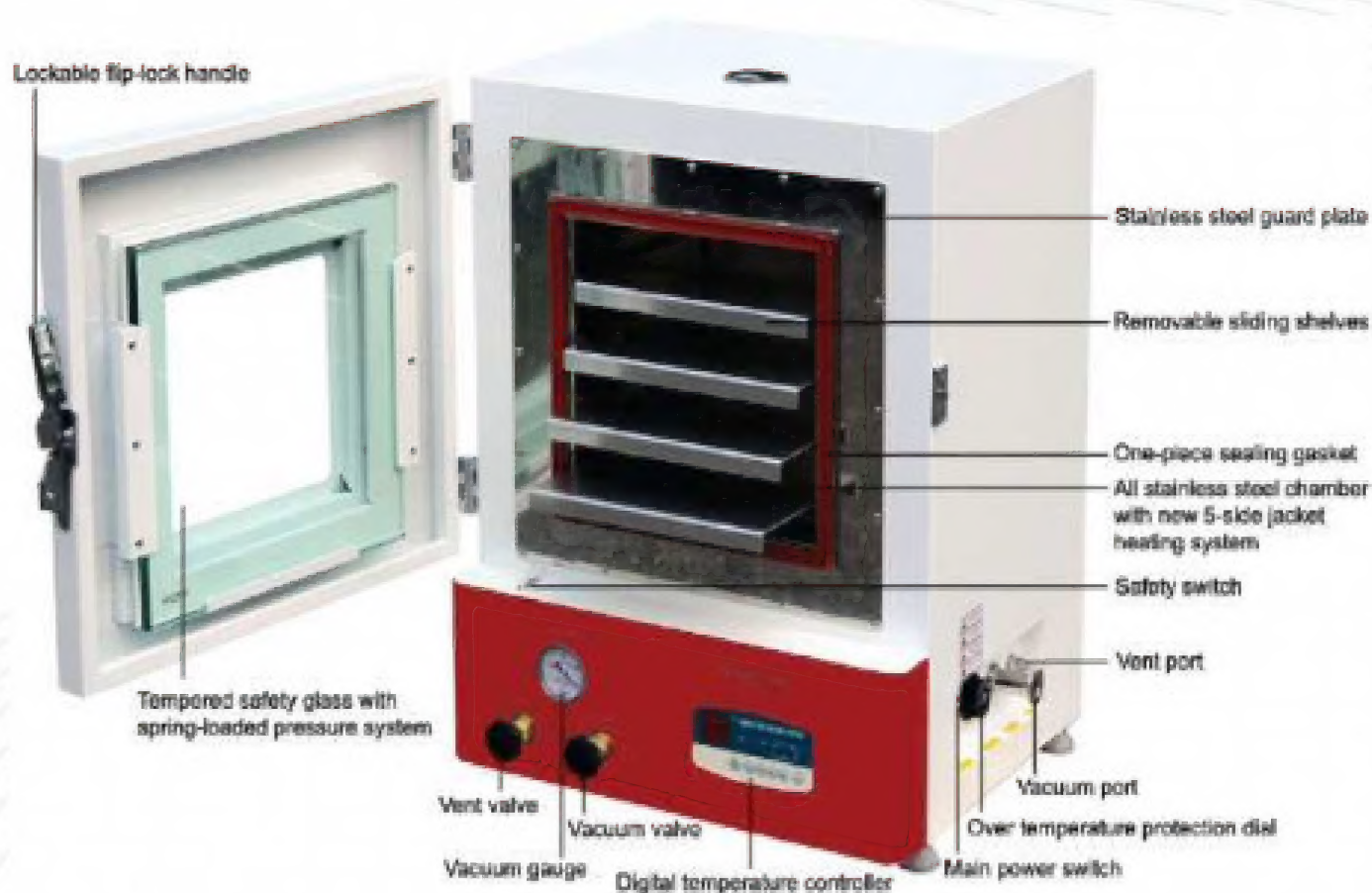
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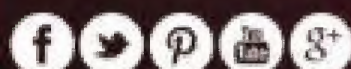
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Flawless Finish - Removes excess chemical residues from your growing medium, roots and other plant tissues, including fruits and flowers. You'll have the cleanest, sweetest yields possible. Use Flawless Finish right before your next harvest and taste the results for yourself.

HIGH TIMES NOVEMBER



Hundreds of flowering plants grown in full sun, just barely concealed by the surrounding cornstalks serving as camouflage. And all this was taking place in the Deep South, where the penalties for pot growing are beyond harsh.

—The Greatest Pot Gardens of All Time, page 70

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38 High Times Takes Off

The true story behind the issue that started it all. Learn how a group of radical pot smokers started a revolution that has lasted 40 years.
By Rex Weiner

46 Anarchy in the USA

In 1978 the Sex Pistols embarked on an ill-fated tour of the American South. Following behind was *High Times* founder Tom Forcade, determined to film a documentary of the band whether they liked it or not. *By John Holmstrom*

55 Cannabis Under the Microscope

Take a close look at the cannabis plant. These are definitely the biggest buds you've ever seen. *By Ted Kinsman and Ford McCann*

63 From Reefer Madness to Cannabis Sanity

Since the 1930s cannabis, and those who enjoy it, have been in the crosshairs of law enforcement. Here's a look at how our side has recently tipped the scales in our favor.
By Keith Stroup

70 The Greatest Pot Gardens of All Time

Danny Danko raids the *High Times* archives to present the most innovative and courageous cannabis crops from the past 40 years, featuring indoor growroom marvels and massive outdoor pot fields.

86 The List: The 25 Greatest Strains of All Time

After weeks of deliberation, here is our line-up for the best of the best, the cream of the crops. Some are timeless classics; others are leaders in the next generation of cannabis. Each has contributed something special to our culture and cherished gene pool. Here's to our favorite plant—may she always be healthy and free! *By Nico Escondido*

102 Narc Shadows

Ex-narcotics agent "Darth Raider" spent 22 years exterminating marijuana fields inside the United States. Now retired and disillusioned, he spoke to *High Times* telling us what it was like fighting for the other side in the War on Drugs. *By Chris Simunek*

109 High Times Interview: Dr. Lester Grinspoon

Marijuana legalization wouldn't be happening today without the dedicated work of Dr. Lester Grinspoon, the Harvard professor who wrote the groundbreaking and classic books *Marihuana: The Forbidden Medicine* and *Marihuana Reconsidered*.
By Rick Cusick

117 NorCal Highs

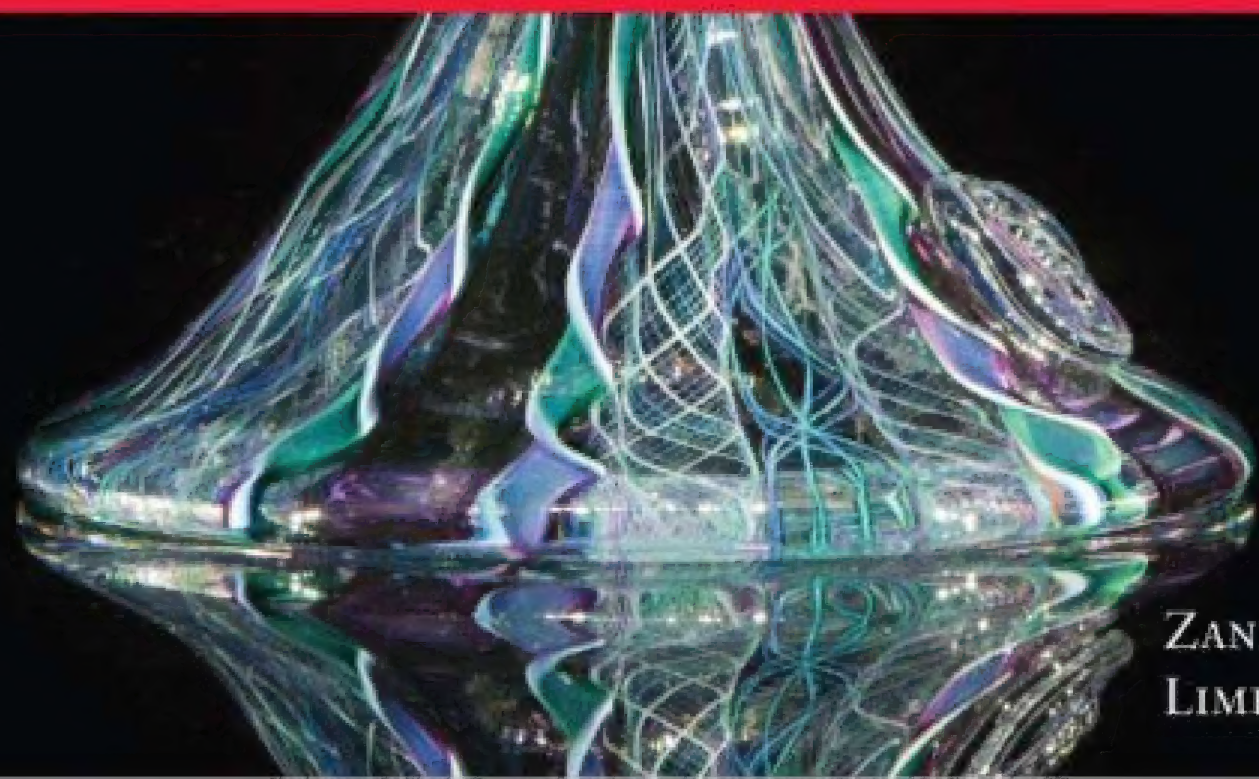
The crowd was high, as were the temperatures at the fifth High Times Medical Cannabis Cup in Northern California. Hordes of high-minded folks flocked to browse a full menu of pot products from hundreds of vendors at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds.
By Dan Skye

Be Legendary Baby

SASQUATCH GLASS



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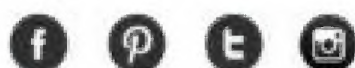


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An Unlikely Army

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With truth as our sword and the First Amendment as our shield we have been steadfast soldiers in this so-called War on Drugs. And don't accuse us of being Gwyneth Paltrow because we are using militaristic jargon—if you want to blame the person who started that shit, get out your Ouija board and talk to Richard Nixon. We never wanted to go to war with anyone. War was declared on us—and when I say “us” I mean you, too. The pot smoker. The “drug” user. The individual who declares him or herself the one and only authority whose permission is needed in order to imbibe the spirit of their choice. To alter your state of mind is to give the finger to those who claim dominion over reality. The reasoning is simple, yet profoundly subversive. Why do you think they declared war on us in the first place?

High Times started 40 years ago as a 50-page black and white magazine. For four decades we have been bringing you informed reporting on news, culture, entertainment, law, medical advances and cultivation pertaining to the cannabis plant. Staying true to the vision of our founder, Thomas “King” Forçade, *High Times* remains dedicated to meeting the multi-faceted needs of the cannabis consumer, grower, seller, activist, patient, entrepreneur and prisoner of war. We will pursue a course through the uncharted waters ahead as cannabis continues its journey from the underground to the mainstream. Our mission is noble and our hopes for the future are very, very high.

Sincerely,

High Times

HIGH TIMES

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Weed Saved Me

Before you read this letter, I want to say I am sorry for the way I write. School isn't really my thing. Anyway, my name is Ricardo Resendiz. I am 23 years old and living in San Antonio. Yeah, I know what you're thinking: "Why is this kid bothering me, when I could be doing better things like drinking coffee or seeing what time I have to go home?" Sorry, that was me trying to be funny. Anyway, I came here because, on a serious note, I want to help people. I want to save people. I am taking a chance to share this story with you first before I share it with the whole world.

Before smoking weed, my confidence was really shitty. I was bullied throughout middle school, and it even followed me to high school. I never told anyone about my problem. I also dated girls who always controlled me.

Smoking weed has saved my life twice. I was thinking about dying the day my ex-girlfriend cheated on me for some loser. As a wimp, I didn't do anything—I never do anything. But smoking weed helps me be a better person. It helped with my depression in so many ways. I love it so much, I just want to write about how much I love it, and I want the whole world to know that I am not killing myself with some killer drug.

My parents judge me so much. It feels like I am being judged everywhere I go for smoking. I pray to God sometimes to make sure I am doing the right thing. But I know for a fact what I am good at: making people laugh, making them smile, making them feel amazing about themselves no matter how sad I am. Man, I poured my heart into this letter! I am going to let not just y'all but everyone in this world know that I, Ricardo Resendiz, support legalizing weed. If you can find it in your heart, please help me to achieve this dream.

*Ricardo Resendiz
San Antonio, TX*

Pat On Our Backs

I'm a longtime reader of *High Times* and have recently begun taking part in my local NORML chapter because of my interest in cannabis and hemp alike. I wanted to commend everyone involved in producing your magazine by writing a letter to the editor.

High Times does a wonderful job addressing numerous social issues that even a non-cannabis user can appreciate. Your magazine is fantastic at covering these issues from different perspectives, such as medical versus recreational use,



Smoking weed helps me be a better person. It helped with my depression in so many ways. I love it so much.

and also at providing accurate information that truly makes the reader think.

The times we live in are chaotic, to say the least, and as a result I believe that not enough people are able to truly think. They are unable to expand their minds and help their conscious understanding of the universe grow, as I believe nature intended us to do. *High Times* provides some relief from this situation by relaying so much information that the mainstream media fails to cover. This certainly helps one to contemplate life on a deeper level and gain a new insight into current events around the world.

I hope that *High Times* stays around for a long time to come and that one day my children and even my children's children will be able to enjoy the magazine. I appreciate your work and your contributions to society, and I feel that *High Times* is much more than simply a "stoner novelty," as some may call it. *High Times* is a terrific source of news, information, opinions, scientific understanding, poll data, strain knowledge and so much more! Hats off to your entire staff and contributors. It would be hard to do a better job than you currently are!

*Aaron Borchardt
Wisconsin*

Higher Still

Chris Simunek
always writes
memorable articles.

One of many fond memories from 20 years ago was an article written by "Gene Christian" (I think that was the pseudonym Chris used) about his notion of a Marijuana Anonymous meeting. He's a good editor who can be relied on.

Now, Bobby Black seems a retro hedonist—and I appreciate that, like Van Halen's 1984 album and so much else. Does he dye his goatee, or is he still that young? Anyway, it was especially good for Bobby to address the huge crowd in Denver before the 2012 election...However, it is annoying and inappropriate to liken marijuana-law reform to anything else—especially to LGBT issues! I know we needed all the help we could get, and still do; I know what helped in 1996. But quit trying to marry these causes! It is irritating, inaccurate and inappropriate. That part of Bobby's otherwise important and well-intended speech was cringe-worthy!

The coverage of the scientist in Arizona who got fired over the pot and PTSD issue is important! Why don't you name the asshole responsible? State Senator Kimberly Yee is a young woman, and LEAP has no problem identifying her. I think she's a Capricorn with a moon in Pisces—or maybe the other way around? Aw, look it up yourselves!

And that other asshole, Representative Andy Harris of Maryland, got me so angry that I sent \$100 to *DCVote.com* within minutes of discovering that they were supporting the boycott of his Maryland shore businesses. Harris is an Aquarius with a Scorpio moon and can be cantankerous, but I've got way more Scorp planets and eighth-house placements than he can shake a stick at. Harris is really just a whimsical pussy—yet he's taken former Representative Bob Barr's old notoriety as "Public Enemy #1." (Remember, that was the Libertarian Party's declaration. There is remarkable redemption yet!)

I've always prodded *HT* to be just a little more political. Let's work together to clean up our image, taking a cue from the trade fair in Denver. Just raise the ol' airplane nose up a little higher yet. Otherwise, *HT* is doing great work.

*Matt Stover
Philadelphia, PA*

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KING HARVEST HAS SURELY COME Travel back with us through the *High Times* archives as Danny Danko chooses “The Greatest Pot Gardens of All Time.” Beginning on page 70, we highlight some of the most innovative and ballsy grows from our 40 years of groundbreaking cultivation coverage. This sweet shot is an outtake from our Jan. ’99 feature “Trichome Technologies: A Scientific Approach to Growing.” *Photo by Kent Sea*

**Contact
High**







November 2014 **High Times**

STAYING LIT Serious weed puffer and top pro rider David Gravette braved 30 mph winds at a DIY skate spot overlooked by a pot garden on the California coast. Lochfoot calls this challenging shot one of his all-time favorites, pointing out that burning one down while boosting massive frontside airs isn't a game for amateurs. *Photo by Lochfoot*

**Contact
High**



LEAFY LAGOON A NorCal grower dedicated to raising as many kind buds as possible appropriated the deck of his private outdoor pool as an overflow grow site. Plenty of sun and unchlorinated water helped these mixed varieties thrive. Just watch your step getting in and out of the pool. Canna-ball! *Photo by Freebie*

**Contact
High**





JAMAICAN GANJA HARVEST Photographer Brian Jahn has been visiting Jamaica for 30 years, immersing himself in the culture that brought us reggae and Rastafari. In 2013, he and *High Times* editor-in-chief Chris Simunek visited this lush field. These plants had the advantage of an irrigation system (a sprinkler can be seen in the center) which is why they are taller and fatter than your average Jamaican ganja plant. *Photo by Brian Jahn*

**Contact
High**



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1st Place *Sativa*

Santa Cruz Mountain Naturals



SILVER HAZE

2nd Place *Sativa*

MedMar Healing Center



TANGERINE HAZE

3rd Place *Sativa*

Heirloom Genetics



THIN MINT COOKIES

1st Place *Hybrid*

Gold Coast Collection



KUSH COMPANY OG KUSH

2nd Place *Hybrid*

Wellness Earth Energy Dispensary



DEATHSTAR

3rd Place *Hybrid*

San Jose Patients Group



CHEM SCOUT
1st Place *Indica*
IC Collective



PARIS OG
2nd Place *Indica*
California Naturals



XXX OG KUSH
3rd Place *Indica*
Life Is Good Healing



XJ-13 LEMONHEAD
2nd Place Concentrate
Alternative Herbal Health Services /
Prime Extractions



GREAT WHITE
High CBD
Alpha Medic



HELL RAISER OG
1st Place Concentrate
TLC Collective / Gold Coast Extracts



J-1
3rd Place Concentrate
Nectar's



CHARLOTTE'S WEB
High CBD
P.E.A.C.E. Plant Essentials And Cannabis Extracts



November 2014 **High Times**

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA'S NOBLE NUGS Connoisseur-quality flowers and hash were in abundance at the fifth annual High Times Medical Cannabis Cup in the Bay Area. These luscious-looking NorCal winners illustrate the amazing and honorable growing tradition that has become synonymous with the region. *Photos by Lochfoot*

**Contact
High**

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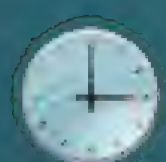
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“THEY SAID IT IN HIGH TIMES!”



“It’s time to let de people get good herbs and smoke. Government’s a joke. All dey wan’ is ya smoke cigarettes and cigar. Some cigar wickeder den herb. Yeah, man, ya can’t smoke cigar. Smoke herb. Some big cigar me see man wit’, God bless! Me tell him must smoke herb.” —**Bob Marley** (Sept. ’76)

Peter Tosh (Sept. ’76)

“Well, we like herb for free, man. Because it is fuckin’ up de whole earth, an’ is not fuckin’ up de whole earth. Is fuckin’ up de small man, cause only de small man at all time go to blood-clot jeal for herb, and de beeg man just pass in him limousine.”

Keith Richards (Jan. ’78)

“Maybe why drugs are so associated with rock music is that the people who actually create the music no longer get that feeling from rock unless they’re actually playing it. I mean, they can’t put a record on and just feel good anymore because it’s just so much to do with part of their business. So you turn to other things to make yourself feel good. It’s a theory.”

B.B. King (Nov. ’78)

“I would just as soon smoke a stick of good grass than some Kools or Prince Alberts.”

William S. Burroughs (Feb. ’79)

“They’re going to legalize marijuana, and sooner or later they’re going to come around to some form of heroin maintenance.”

Mick Jones (Aug. ’79)

“Gimme a little toke of that and let’s see where we go. [*Inhales deeply*] C’m on in, Joe, smoke some of this, we’re going to get high. That’s what it’s all about.”

Jack Herer

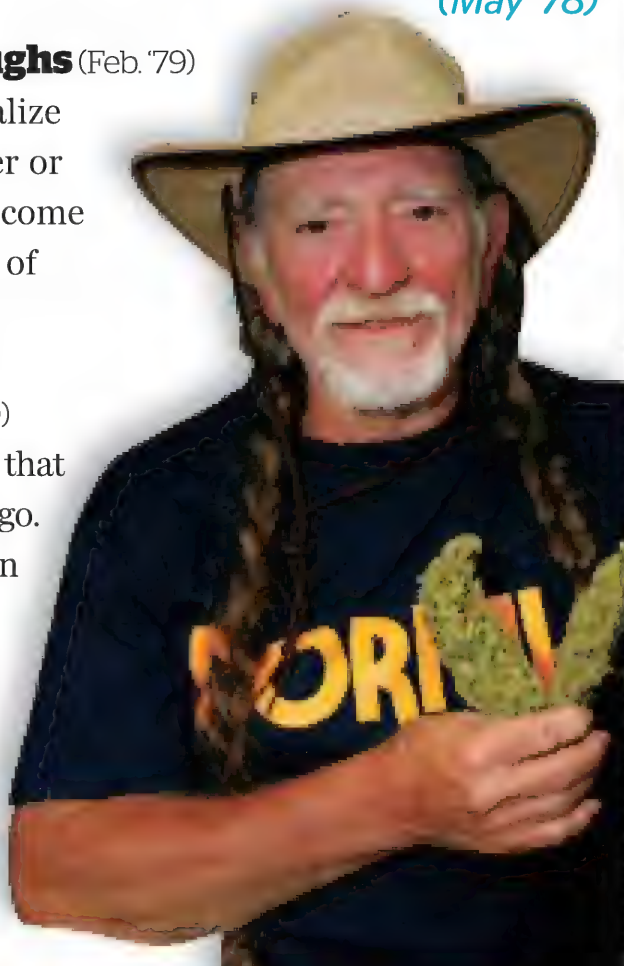
(Feb. ’89)



“I didn’t discover marijuana until 1969, when I was 30 years old. At the time, I was a successful businessman and a Nixon supporter. Pot changed my life. I began to hear my own words back to me as judgments. I put on earphones and heard music in color for the first time.”

“A cosmic cowboy has a guitar, smokes pot and is an outlaw. Being an outlaw is saying what I want to in my music.”

—**Willie Nelson**
(May ’78)



Joe Strummer (Aug. ’79)

“The *Yipster Times* says the Drug Enforcement Administration is trying to make pot like cocaine, trying to freak out everybody with massive crackdowns and paraquat scares, so they could get pot to be a rich man’s drug and thus remove its threat. They’re really scared of dope—otherwise they’d have made it legal, right?”

Keith Stroup (Sept. ’79)

“It may be only one small toke for mankind, but it takes your breath away if you’re the toker. The decriminalization of drugs is the greatest high of all.”

Mick Jagger (June ’80)

“Cocaine is a very bad, habit-forming bore. I can’t understand the fashion for it. Sitting and smoking grass is different.”

Stephen King (Jan. ’81)

“I think that marijuana should not only be legal, I think it should be a cottage industry. It would be wonderful for the state of Maine. There’s some pretty good homegrown dope. I’m sure it would be even better if you could grow it with fertilizers and have greenhouses.”

Frank Zappa (Dec. ’89)

“Think of it this way—you know where pot comes from, right? It comes from the ground. Did it ever occur to you that designer drugs are not things that just come springing out of the ground? They’re not natural. Some scientist had to build them... Now the guy who’s growing marijuana, or the cocaine rancher in South America, he’s not a scientist. He’s a business-farmer combination.”

Bob Weir (Aug. ’90)

“If alcohol is legal, I just don’t see why marijuana shouldn’t be. Marijuana is so much less toxic than alcohol, and less habit-forming.”

Jello Biafra (Aug. ’91)

“You don’t have to smoke pot to realize that the real drug problem is not the drugs, and that we can help solve our drug problem and a hell of a lot of our crime problems, environmental problems and racial problems if we’d all do our patriotic duty as Earth Patriots and GROW MORE POT!”

Rita Marley (Dec. '91)

"Herb is something they won't be able to stop. It's built into the world—not something that man made, but a God-made thing."

Tone Loc (May '92)

"I'm a grown man, I know how to make choices and this is one I've made. I'm a cheeba believer."

Chris Robinson (July '92)

"You're gonna tell me puttin' up a nuclear plant in my neighborhood is good for me, but I'm not allowed to smoke weed?"

Redman (Mar. '93)

"I treat my music as an individual, you know, as a person, a human life. You gotta puff weed to get really deep like that."

Shannon Hoon (Aug. '93)

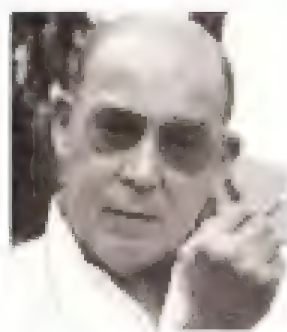
"*High Times*—I really like that magazine. I've always wanted to be the pot reviewer!"

Tom Robbins (May '94)

"Marijuana seems to possess all of the benevolence, grace, clarity, insightfulness and calm that the state-sanctioned drug—booze—so sadly lacks."

Ken Kesey (May '94)

"That old 1960s consciousness coming out of the beatnik years is the only path I see that is going to get us out of

Hunter S. Thompson (May '94)

"I have always loved marijuana. It has been a source of joy and comfort to me for many years. And I still think of it as a staple of basic life, along with beer and ice and grapefruits—and millions of Americans agree with me."

"A 40-ouncer [of malt liquor] can kill you, literally. How can a joint kill you? Not even in the long run. There hasn't even been one death behind a joint. Compare that to liquor, and liquor's legal. You could apply the same laws to weed as to cigarettes and liquor."

—B-Real
(March '92)

"THEY SAID IT IN HIGH TIMES!"



"We used to smoke pounds of the shit, man. We used to buy it by the fuckin' sackful. We used to be so fucked up all the time. Wake up in the morning, start the day with a spliff and go to bed with it."

—Ozzy Osbourne (March '99)

the mess that we're in. And our gospel is that joint—That joint won't lie to you. One joint will give you a different high than another joint, but they'll be straight with you. Marijuana works."

George Carlin (Nov. '97)

"I don't think drugs are a problem; I think they're a symptom. As long as Americans are empty, spiritually, emotionally, morally empty, they will need things like the drugs they choose to use. Mankind has wanted to change the way it felt from the beginning anyway. People want to feel different."

Woody Harrelson (Nov. '00)

"Everybody has their drug. The real hypocrisy of the Drug War is that it's

not simply a War on Drugs. You can go to a drugstore in any city in the nation and you'll find any drug you want, and they'll be more addictive and worse for you than grass. And there will be a smiling man there sanctioned by the government who's allowed to give them to you."

Marilyn Manson (Feb. '01)

"I think I started with hard drugs, and worked my way back to the easier ones... I may qualify as a pot smoker now."

Kevin Smith (Oct. '01)

"There are a lot of people like me who can smoke weed and still get a day's work done."



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Caution: A little will do a lot.

David Arquette (June '07)

"Legalizing marijuana is such a natural step in getting our head out of our ass and seeing the world for what it is."

Bob Saget (Sept. '08)

"I've had a few great experiences with pot that I can't remember!"

Oliver Stone (Nov. '09)

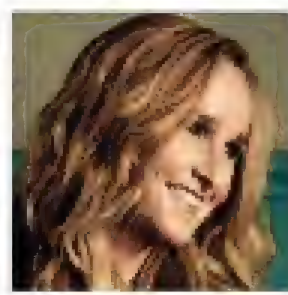
"Marijuana, as well as many other drugs, should be legalized and taxed and regulated by the states. It's a great source of income. It should be sold like it is in liquor stores, and there should be no social stigma. It's an insane hypocrisy."

Alanis Morissette (Jan. '10)

"I literally want to write a chart that says things like 'Marijuana soothes this particular thing' and 'Food soothes that.' We can serve a great purpose if we can get to what's going on underneath."

Melissa Etheridge

(Jan. '11)



"I was on chemotherapy, and it was horrible. But the pain was alleviated by cannabis. It was awesome... truly. I was able to sit there and really see that health is just balance. Cannabis helps balance. If we had reputable tests done on stress and cannabis and alleviation of pain, doctors would prescribe it all the time—and they should."

"I'm a recreational pot smoker. Because it's not a constant in my life, I don't say it should be made legal so it's more available. But from a medical point of view... why should [patients] have to look too hard for the thing that makes them better? So from that point of view, it's like, 'Please, what is the problem?'"

—Frances McDormand
(May '03)

“THEY SAID IT IN HIGH TIMES!”



"I remember going to the *High Times* photo shoot and getting blessed with a big-ass garbage bag full of dope. It was Chronic, when nobody had Chronic. They had bullshit out there then, and *High Times* were the only motherfuckers who knew where it was. And I went on the *Howard Stern Show*, and I was blazing up on Howard Stern and I was like, 'You know what? *High Times* is the realest motherfucking magazine in the world!'"

—Snoop Dogg (April '12)

Bryan Cranston (Sept. '12)

"Marijuana started out with a bad connotation, as you know—but to me, marijuana is no different than wine. It's a drug of choice. It's meant to alter your current state—and that's not a bad thing. It's ridiculous that marijuana is still illegal. We're still fighting for it... There are millions of people who smoke pot on a social basis and don't become criminals. So stop with that argument – it doesn't work."

Roseanne (July '13)

"The first time I smoked, I was 17. I was with my sister, and we were sleeping out on our porch. I remember sitting on the porch with my mouth hanging open, looking at a tree and going, 'Jesus Christ, is that a tree?' I couldn't stop staring at it – the complexity of it, the patterning. It opened up my mind to whole other conscious rhythms."

**Tommy Chong**

(Sept. '13)

"I've gotten high with practically everybody."

Ice Cube (Aug. '14)

"It's always to me been the thing, which is it should be up to grown people to make that decision for themselves whether they want to get down or not—and for whatever reason they wanna use it, if it help 'em, on the medical side or they just wanna get high." 🌿



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(Jack Herer)
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-Dallas, TX

(Blue Haze)
“Mellow tasting, great high! Very happy and enthusiastic. The sativa genes are definitely dominant.”
-Denver, CO

MARKET ANALYSIS

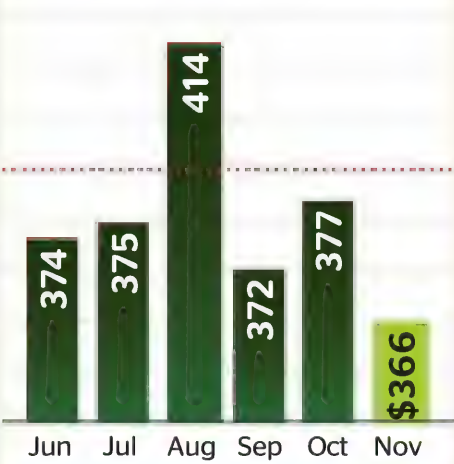
Prices by the ounce

While the US Price and Kind indices both finished November below their previous month’s averages, the Mids Index rebounded \$34 from its 53-month low showing in October. Haze made the top five submitted strains for the first time since April 2014.

US Price Index
YTD Average: \$304



Kind Index
YTD Average: \$381



Mids Index
YTD Average: \$273



Schwag Index
YTD Average: \$102



(AK-47)
“Completely covered with trichomes – almost white. Potent and relaxing, great all around smoke.”
-Pike Creek, DE

TRANS HIGH MARKET QUOTATIONS

STATE	CITY	STRAIN	PRICE
Arizona	Tucson	Pre-98 Bubba Kush	\$320
Colorado	Denver	Blue Haze	380
Delaware	Pike Creek	AK-47	350
Florida	Orlando	Sour Diesel	300
Georgia	Atlanta	Kush	360
Iowa	Ames	Blue Widow	350
Kentucky	Fort Campbell	Purps	480
Louisiana	New Orleans	Girl Scout Cookies	350
Michigan	Saginaw	SFV OG Kush	225
Minnesota	Minneapolis	Kush	280
Missouri	Springfield	Blue Dream	280
New Jersey	Hoboken	Skywalker	420
New York	New York	Strawberry Cough	400
Ohio	Columbus	JillyBean	320
Pennsylvania	Pittsburgh	Blueberry	350
Tennessee	Knoxville	Deathstar	200
Texas	Dallas	Jack Herer	300
INTERNATIONAL			
Australia	Adelaide	Blue Dream	AU\$200
Canada	Calgary	Blueberry Cheese	C\$200

LISTINGS FROM THE FIRST EVER THMQ IN 1974

CITY	STRAIN	PRICE
New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Baltimore, Washington DC	Mexican Commercial	\$15-30
	Mexican Fine Gold	30-50
	Jamaican Commercial	25-40
	Jamaican Connoisseur Level	35-50
	Columbian Commercial	35-50
	Columbian Connoisseur	45-90
	Domestic	10-25
	Domestic Connoisseur	20-40
	Vietnamese	45
	Lavender Thai Sticks	100-175
	Brazilian	35-60
	Hash Oil	10-20/gm
	LSD	1.5-3/hit
Chicago, Detroit, Ann Arbor, Madison, Milwaukee, Columbus	Prices on Mexican similar to New York City or lower. Columbian prices higher and hard to get. Exotic grasses very rare, but prices not much higher than NYC.	
San Francisco, Berkeley, LA, San Diego, Denver, Boulder	Mexican prices somewhat lower than New York City... Jamaican and Columbian slightly higher to much higher... Exotic grasses available in connoisseur circles, with California-grown Columbians a strong comer.	
Eugene, Portland, Seattle, Butte, Cheyenne, Fargo	Mexican as high or higher than NYC... Columbian and Jamaican rare and high... Hash oil very available in Eugene and Portland... Some domestic but quality ragged... Other drugs available in their scene, but scenes are small.	

High Times wants to know what you’re smoking. Submit your strain information including location and price by the ounce to thmq@hightimes.com - or tweet us (#THMQ).

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HIGH TIMES Cover Craziness

An altered state of mind sure can lead to some strange cover concepts. Here are a few of our funniest.



January 1978

After Greg Allman testified against his own drug supplier, we named him and then-wife Cher "Informer Couple of the Year."



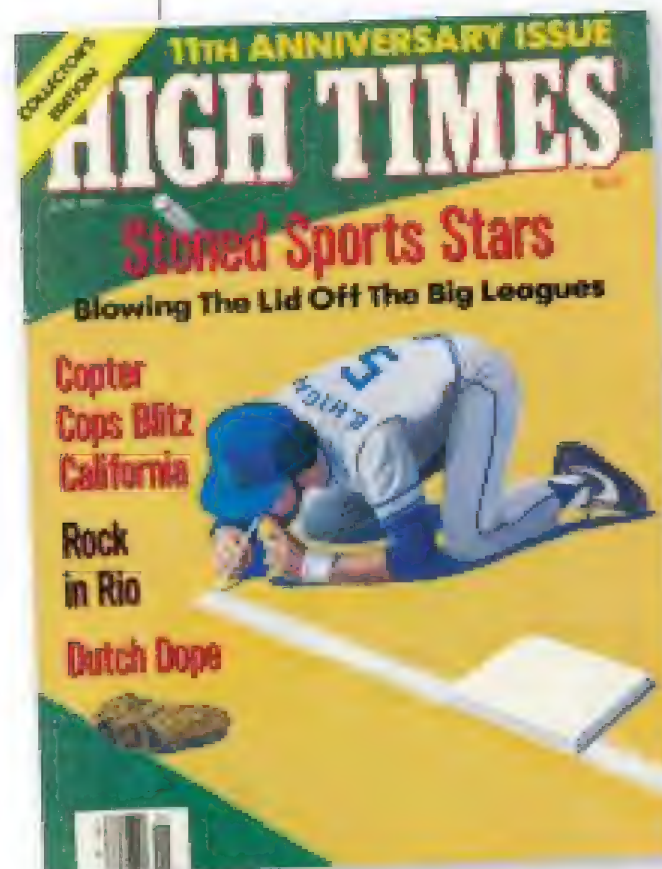
November 1978

When America's drug czar Peter Bourne was caught snorting blow at a NORML party, *High Times* ran this cover of Jimmy Carter with a coke spoon up his nose. It was our biggest-selling issue of all time.



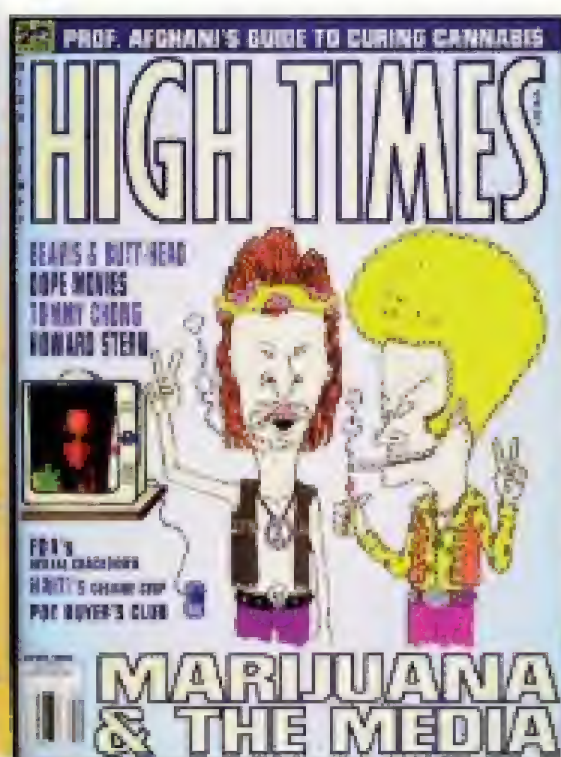
November 1980

A classic new school/old school battle played out by Johnny Rotten and Willie Nelson.



June 1985

Back in the mid-1980's a lot of sports stars were getting busted for drugs. Some things never change, eh?



April 1994

Beavis and Butt-Head, America's favorite dirtbags, light up for the cover of *High Times*.



August 1995

In space, no one can hear you smoke.



June 2014

The four most frequently stoned hip-hop stars—in stone!

High Times Firsts

Summer 1974: *High Times* introduces Trans-High Market Quotations, an international price list for marijuana, in its inaugural issue.



August/September 1975: Classic comic Dope Rider appears in the magazine for the first time.



September 1976: *High Times* is the first magazine to put Bob Marley on its cover. He is on the cover a second time in February 1990.



June 1986: The Pot 40, a list dedicated to the best things in life as voted on by *High Times* readers, is introduced.

Summer 1987: The High Times Freedom Fighters are founded, staging major legalization events across the US. The Boston Freedom Rally draws crowds of over 100,000.



November 1987: The first-ever High Times Cannabis Cup hands out awards for marijuana.



1990: *High Times* releases *Let Freedom Ring*, a documentary about the Freedom Fighters starring Willie Nelson.

1997: *High Times* launches 420.com.

1999: *High Times* dedicates an issue to glass for the first time.

2007: The first Miss High Times pageant is held in Negril, Jamaica. Jenni is crowned as *HT's* smokesmodel.



2013: *High Times* and two other publications ask a judge to prevent enactment of a law requiring stores to place pot-themed magazines behind the counter if they allow patrons under 21. Marijuana is not pornography.

2013: *High Times* smashes the stigma of the lazy stoner: "We are everywhere. We are doctors and lawyers; we are throughout society and in every part of it. I think *High Times*... [has] reinforced the truth rather than the cliché." —Danny Danko in *The Nation* (Nov. '13)



2014: The now-annual Cannabis Cup in Amsterdam has multiplied Stateside; *High Times* hosts Cannabis Cups in LA, Denver, San Francisco, Michigan and Seattle.



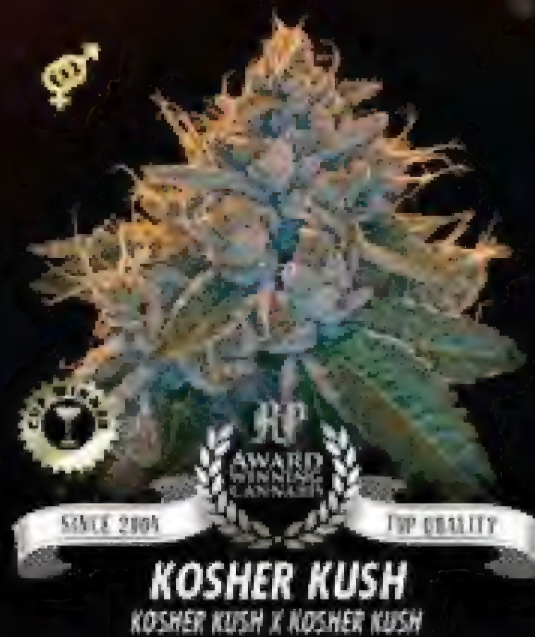
2014: *High Times* turns 40!



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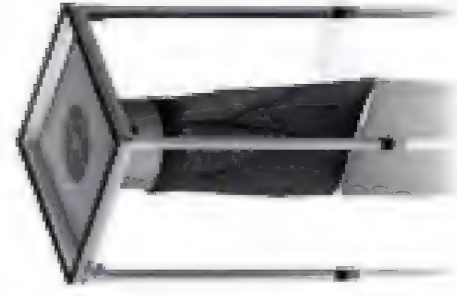
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
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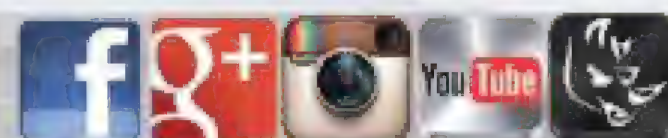
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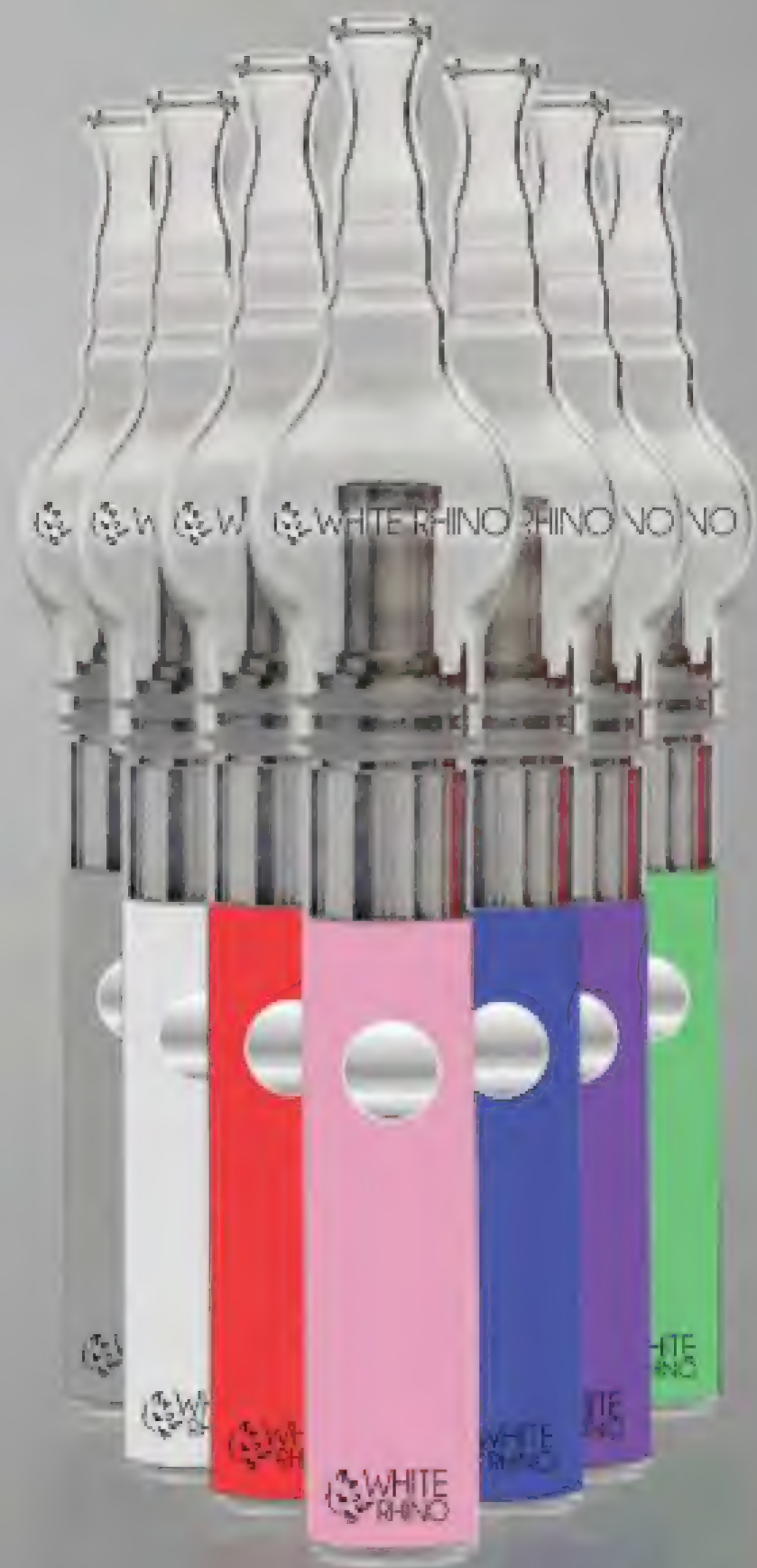
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High Times

High Times



Six and a half things you didn't know about *High Times* (unless you were there at the beginning). *By Rex Weiner*

On a rainy spring night in 1974, an unmarked panel truck with Pennsylvania plates rolled out of the Holland Tunnel onto Manhattan's wet streets and headed uptown, finally pulling over at an address in Greenwich Village. Three young men met the driver at the curb to unload a pallet of boxes. They carried them into a musty basement that served as an office and communal living space.

Opening the boxes, they found copies of a magazine fresh from the printer. A shiny silver-foil cover showed a woman holding a mushroom tantalizingly close to her lips. It was the first issue of *High Times*.

The creation of "The Magazine for High Society" (as it was billed back then) is shrouded in the smoke of a thousand joints. Some say it was started as a joke; others whisper of shadowy conspiracies. A motley parade of individuals have claimed to be the "founder" of *High Times*, although the true founder's name—Thomas King Forçade—is nowhere to be seen in that first issue.

At least one eyewitness—Ed Dwyer, who was listed as editor on the masthead—is willing to testify that I was there that night, helping him and Robert Singer, a future *High Times* editorial director, unload those boxes. I'm sure that I paused for a brief moment to check out my own name on the masthead. For an ambitious 23-year-old journalist, working as a contributing editor on a new magazine is usually a career boost—even if it was a magazine for dope fiends.

Relying on my tattered diaries and the equally tattered mental faculties of some of my former colleagues and old comrades (those still kicking), I have put together some lesser-known facts concerning the birth of *High Times*.

1. It all began in a Greenwich Village basement.

The Vietnam War raged on, Richard Nixon insisted that "I am not a crook," Patty Hearst was robbing banks, and everything in America was hanging fire. It was the autumn of 1973, and for those who still counted themselves among the sex-drugs-and-rock'n'roll contingent of the so-called counterculture, the '60s revolution seemed to have gone terribly wrong. Winter was closing in.

One place the revolution still simmered was at 283 West 11th Street, a brownstone in the heart of Greenwich Village. Visitors descended beneath the stoop to a basement entranceway, past a bronze plaque that read "Institute for Advanced Studies," and entered the world headquarters of the Underground Press Syndicate. The organization was overseen by Thomas King Forçade, already legendary for his exploits as a pie-throwing political gadfly, outspoken pot advocate and radical media mastermind.

Forçade was pushing forward with plans for a new magazine that he described as "*Playboy* for the counterculture." Many of those in the room referred to it instead as "free pot": If you dropped by to help, you usually got some. But there was a price.

"You were seduced into an endless conversation of dope-addled brilliance," Dwyer recalls, "about politics, sex and everything that was happening in the world."

The brainstorming sessions might include Dwyer, formerly with Warner Publishing; the aforementioned Robert Singer, then a brainy young staff writer for *Penthouse*; A.J. Weberman, the opinionated Dylan-ologist; Yossarian, the sardonic underground cartoonist; Dana Beal, mercurial leader of the Zeitgeist International Party (a.k.a. the Zippies); quirky cannabis-cultivation expert Ed Rosenthal; a pixie-ish chain-smoking blonde who



Fueled by pot and balloons inflated from a 50-pound tank of nitrous oxide (another office amenity), the basement sessions yielded enough ideas to fill a very large table of contents.

called herself Anastasia Sirocco; and a revolving cast of characters comprising anyone who was either crashing in the communal space or scoring a bag of weed from Tom Forcade.

“Everyone who walked in the door was a focus group,” Dwyer says. “We were going for 100 story ideas.” The potential articles accumulated like roaches in an ashtray:

- Pyramids and Ancient Highs
- The Hashmaker’s Art
- A Consumer’s Guide to Paraphernalia
- Tracking the Magic Mushroom
- The Dope Scene in Russia
- Making a Sexual Pleasure Dome
- I Was Kennedy’s Grass Dealer

Dwyer remembers contributing that last one. “I made it up!” he confesses, many years later. Fueled by pot and balloons inflated from a 50-pound tank of nitrous oxide (another office amenity), the basement sessions yielded enough ideas to fill a very large table of contents.

2. The magazine’s soon-to-be-iconic name was first unveiled in a marketing brochure.

Absurdly slick in its double meaning, foolishly bold given the repressive era to come, *High Times* was the perfect title for “The Magazine of High Society”—but its initial appearance predated the magazine’s cover.

No one recalls exactly who came up with the title, but it was first announced in a promotional brochure, the result of an inspired ad hoc business plan. Contributing editor Ed Rosenthal had been selling a line of candles wholesale to the headshop

owners attending the annual National Fashion and Boutique Show. What better place for a pot magazine to find advertisers, he and Forcade decided, than among the proliferating paraphernalia companies? And they might even score distribution via those headshop owners, who attended from all over the country.

But the magazine wasn’t ready yet, and the Boutique Show was fast approaching. The solution was an 11" x 17" brochure on gold-colored stock, typeset in an Optima font, designed to attract advertisers and subscribers ahead of the event.

“Why advertise in *High Times*?” the pitch began, targeting paraphernalia wholesalers. Then it supplied the answer: “Satisfies the ultimate criteria to make the sale.”

The copy, laid out in regular columns, featured the long list of articles dreamed up in those stoned-out basement sessions, many of which did eventually appear in the magazine. The business address—Box 386, Cooper Station, New York, NY—was shared with the Underground Press Syndicate.

“The magazine would not have happened without the brochure,” declares Ron L., who handled its layout and printing and was one of the handful of people living in the communal office. Originally from Waterloo, IA—the Midwestern hometown of ultraconservative Congresswoman Michelle Bachmann—today Ron prefers not to be associated with *High Times*.

“My 90-year-old mother doesn’t need this!” he said over the phone from somewhere in Silicon Valley, where he works as a software engineer. But whatever the importance of the brochure to the magazine’s initial success—and with all due respect to mothers everywhere—Ron’s full name can still be found on the masthead of *High Times* #1.

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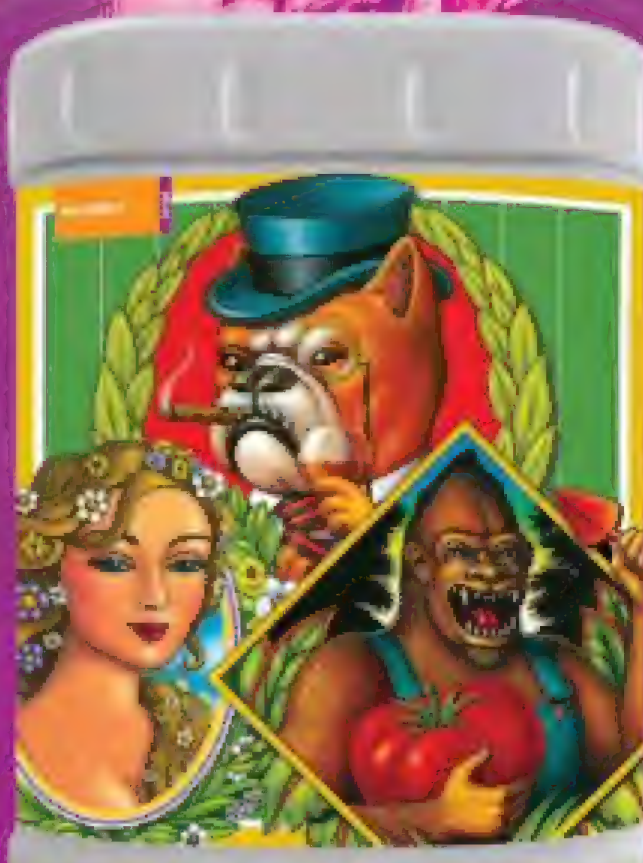
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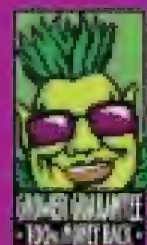
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[The cover] was meant to evoke a certain feeling, she told Dwyer recently: “Going on a safari, a trip, escape from reality. It was about a journey.”

3. Without the jeans business, *High Times* might never have taken off.

A new product in search of a market, the world’s first marijuana magazine found it at the aforementioned Boutique Show.

Created in 1970 by two fashion-industry veterans, brothers Alan and Harold Larkin, the National Fashion and Boutique Show was a wild, sexy rendezvous of entrepreneurs on the trembling edges of American culture. It was a time when “boutique” was still an exotic word in 1970s small-town America. Jeans—Jordache! Sassoon! Calvin Klein!—were suddenly the pants you’d wear in the city, not just on the farm.

“It’s new! They’re *young*! They’re *alive*!

There are thirty-five *thousand* young, alive, vibrant, boutique-oriented people here,” one of the show’s organizers told *New Yorker* writer Lillian Ross in a “Talk of the Town” piece published in February 1971. Among the 800 vendors taking up 10 floors of space at the McAlpin Hotel in the heart of Manhattan’s Garment District were companies like Aquarian Enterprises, Now Accessories, Love n’ Stuff, Funky & Groovy, Truth & Soul, Groovy Headwear, Easy Rider and Naked Grape.

By 1972 and ’73, the business of rolling papers, bongs, hash pipes and other “paraphernalia” was expanding from headshops in San Francisco and New York to a host of other cities. Manufacturers like EZ Wider, Bambú, Job and Marygin now began

promoting their brands at the Boutique Show, and before long had taken over their own section. *High Times* #1 made its debut at the June 1974 show and was an instant success, selling out its first run of 10,000 copies and getting reprinted twice.

“The Boutique Show was where the paraphernalia industry discovered *High Times*, and where relationships were built that filled the magazine with ads,” says Andy Kowl, who was running an underground newspaper on Long Island when he accepted Forcade’s invitation to sign on as publisher for the second issue and helped build the advertising and sales part of *HT*’s business.

The paraphernalia industry also became the foundation of the magazine’s expanding distribution network, according to Kowl, who works these days as a publishing consultant. *High Times* returned the favor by exposing thousands of retailers and millions of consumers to products they’d never heard of before. “Other than an occasional classified in *Rolling Stone*,” Kowl points out, “no other national publication took these kinds of ads before.”

And so things changed. “They used to talk revolution, and now they talk success,” the Boutique Show’s Alan Larkin told Lillian Ross on her second visit in 1976. It was probably not quite what the would-be revolutionary Tom Forcade had in mind when he started the magazine—but that’s another story. By 1976, the highlight of the Boutique Show was the *High Times* party.

4. The girl on the cover of the first issue was ...

The new magazine needed a cover, and Dwyer knew a photographer, a former sweetheart named Robyn Scott. She was taking a photography class at the Tyler School of Art and a photojournalism course at Temple University, and she lived in a Pennsylvania farmhouse overlooking Perkiomen Creek.

Scott had a friend named Elizabeth Donoghue—“beautiful, half-Irish, half-Basque,” says Dwyer—who was an actress with a theater group at nearby Haverford College. She agreed to model for the cover.

Dwyer doesn’t recall any editorial discussions about the magazine’s image or meetings to decide what the cover should look like. Scott came up with the idea for the picture. It was meant to evoke a certain feeling, she told Dwyer recently: “Going on a safari, a trip, escape from reality. It was about a journey.” So she and Donoghue drove over to a grocery



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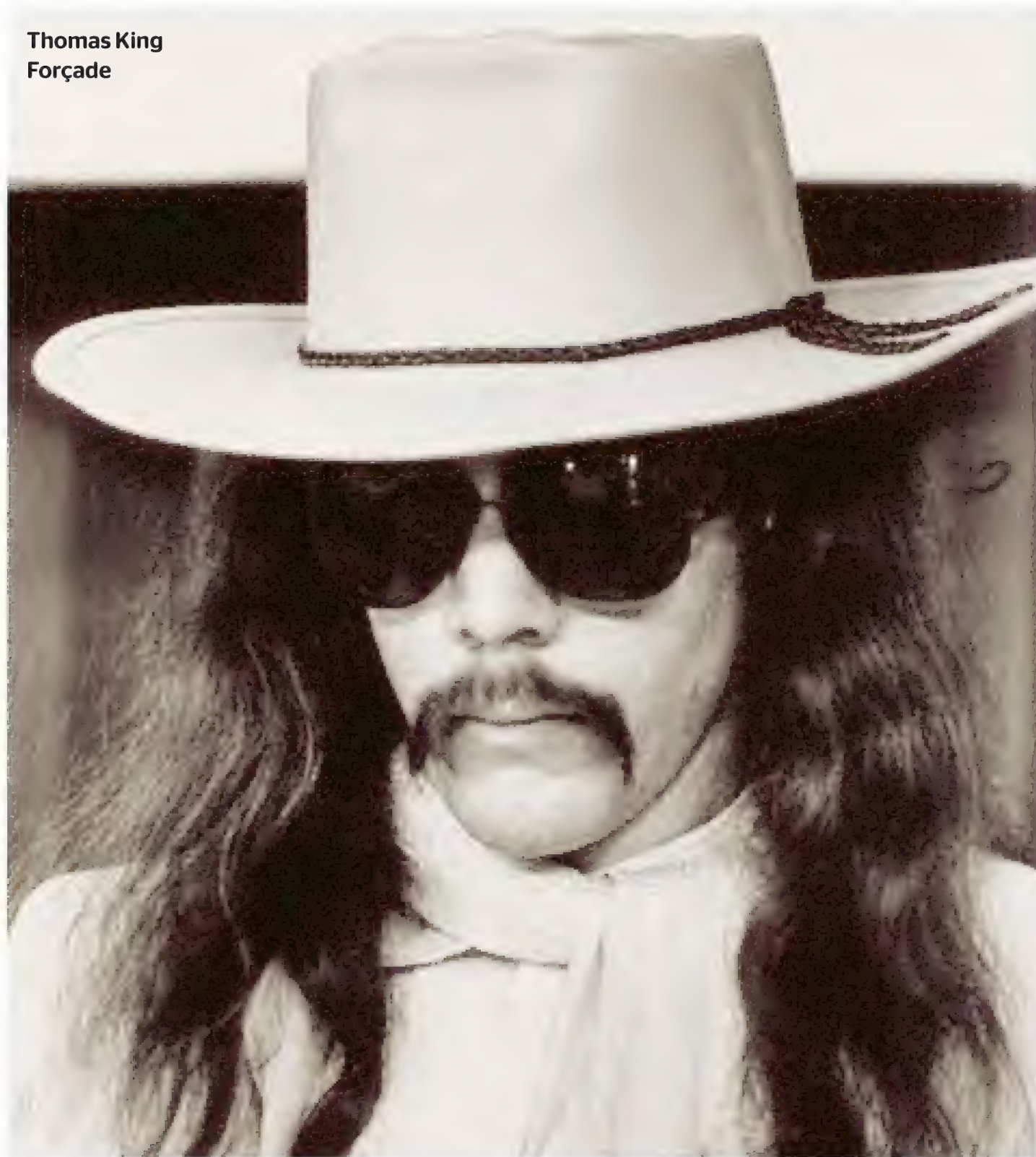
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Thomas King
Forçade



If all of the people who claim to have attended *High Times*' first party were gathered together in the same room, you'd need Grand Central Station to handle the overflow.

store and picked up a box of salad-variety mushrooms.

Although they attempted to shoot outdoors, they decided the light just wasn't right. Inside the farmhouse, Donoghue posed with a single choice mushroom and tried on a floppy hat, the kind of thrift-store hippie-chic chapeau later popularized by Diane Keaton in *Annie Hall*. Scott clicked off shots with her single-lens reflex 35mm camera.

Now a grandmother working for an upscale screen-door company, Scott has lost touch with her model, who never asked for money and didn't get any. As for Donoghue, her first and only appearance on the cover of *High Times* did more to launch the magazine than it did her acting career, but she may be tickled to know that *High Times* #1—including her alluring image—is enshrined today as a highly valued collector's item as well as an iconic piece of counterculture history.

5. *HT*'s Main Line connection was also Tom Forçade's key collaborator.

An essential midwife to *High Times*' birth came not from the Lower East Side, Haight-Ashbury, Woodstock or anywhere else on the countercultural axis, but from the leafy enclaves of America's 1 percent. She was a diminutive blonde in a Girl Scout uniform with a tailored micro-miniskirt, an animated presence in the 11th Street office with either a joint or a cigarette always hanging from her lips. She called herself Anastasia Sirocco, and she was identified in *High Times* #1 as the advertising director.

Her real name was Cindy Ornsteen. Born into a wealthy Jewish family, Ornsteen grew up in Gladwyne, an upper-crust town along Philadelphia's fabled Main Line, and eventually became Tom Forçade's lover. The two were an odd couple given her privileged East Coast

upbringing and his Arizona-bred cowboy roots—sort of Leather & Lace crossed with Bonnie & Clyde.

The couple's first visit to Dwyer's apartment on the Upper West Side of Manhattan in 1973 was memorable. "She was in hot pants, and he was carrying a sawed-off shotgun in a gym bag," Dwyer recalls. Forçade asked him a favor: Could he stash the shotgun for a while? A few weeks later, Forçade returned, collected his gun and, as a token of appreciation, left behind a bag of weed. He also invited Dwyer—unemployed at the time—to come down to the office and look over some articles slated for a new magazine that he was publishing. So began Dwyer's editorial role at *High Times*.

Forçade and Ornsteen had met at a Philadelphia advertising agency called Concert Hall Publications, which brokered ad sales for the Underground Press Syndicate. Concert Hall was the go-to agency for record labels, movie studios and other companies trying to reach the "youth market" through the syndicate's 200-plus member newspapers. The agency also did music-festival marketing: The program for the 1969 "Woodstock Music & Art Festival" was a Concert Hall production, with copy written by then-college student Dwyer.

On his way east to assume the reins of the Underground Press Syndicate in late 1969, Forçade off stopped in Philly to talk business with Concert Hall's owners, Bert Cohen and Michael Forman. The most important thing he took away from that meeting was Cohen's secretary, Cindy Ornsteen, whose acerbic wit and kick-ass attitude matched—and often outdid—Forçade's icy anarchism.

"I used to call her my dark sister," says her cousin Blair Sabol, then a writer for *Esquire* and *The Village Voice*. Ornsteen was a key collaborator with Forçade, shaping his tastes and encouraging his creativity. Visiting a paper warehouse together, she called his attention to a pallet of silver-foil stock left over from a holiday catalog—the perfect cover for the new magazine. Forçade bought the whole pallet, and they drove it down in Cindy's car to the printer in Bucks County.

"They spread the mechanicals for the magazine out on my dining-room table," recalls Michael Prestegord, the owner of NeoLitho Printing. He'd been Concert Hall's printer for the Woodstock program, a connection that brought him the *High Times* gig. So how much did he charge to print that first issue? "I don't remember," Prestegord laughs, "but Tom paid me in street money." *continued on page 140*

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CAINS

anarchy in the USA

Tom Forçade on tour with (and against) the Sex Pistols.

By John Holmstrom

HIGH TIMES' FOUNDER, TOM FORÇADE, WAS KNOWN FOR BIG THINKING—AND BIG SPENDING.

INSPIRED BY THE SEX PISTOLS' REVOLUTIONARY "FUCK YOU" ATTITUDE, FORÇADE SET OUT TO MAKE A DOCUMENTARY MOVIE ABOUT THE LEGENDARY BRITISH PUNK BAND'S ILL-FATED 1978 TOUR, AND HE WAS WILLING TO SPEND WHATEVER IT TOOK TO GET THE JOB DONE. THE ONLY PROBLEM WAS, HE NEGLECTED TO INFORM THE PISTOLS OR THEIR RECORD COMPANY, WARNER BROTHERS, ABOUT HIS PLANS, AND THE BAND'S ROAD MANAGER BECAME CONVINCED THAT HE WAS WORKING FOR THE CIA.



The Sex Pistols
bring punk to
Tulsa, OK, in 1978.



From left: John Holmstrom, Tom Forçade and Jack Coombs looking for Johnny Rotten in Jamaica.



Forçade scared even the Sex Pistols.



Sid getting a grip on things.

Sid was looking for drugs and was eventually found in a hospital, high on heroin, with the words "GIMME A FIX" carved into his chest.



In May 1976, a man dressed in a western-style three-piece suit barged into the offices of *Punk* magazine, took a seat, plopped his cowboy boots on my desk and announced: "I'm going to make you rich and famous." He briefly went over his plan, then gave everyone in the office a brand-new \$100 bill. "Never mention to anyone that you know me," he warned. "This could be dangerous for both of us."

That was my first meeting with *High Times* founder Tom Forçade.

A few weeks later, Forçade rented a Cadillac limo and took the *Punk* magazine staff to a club on Long Island to see the Dictators, one of our favorite bands. Forçade was smoking the strongest pot I'd ever inhaled—I could barely speak. Tom also bogarted the joint forever, letting the world's most expensive marijuana burn while he talked business, music and magazines. In the club, we were drinking

beers, and as we cheered for an encore, Tom took an empty glass pitcher and started banging it against the table. I was so stoned that I got paranoid it would break and send glass shards flying everywhere. As always, Tom knew what exactly he was doing: He was outpunking the staff of *Punk*!

After the show, we went back to his loft. He lit up yet another joint and played the first MC5 album, *Kick Out the Jams*. In the opening to "Rocket Reducer," singer Rob Tyner raps about how rich people always think they're high society, but "*we* are the *real* high society." Tom told us this phrase inspired him to name the magazine *High Times* (and for several years, *HT* was subtitled "The Magazine for High Society"). His stereo's huge speakers—over 10 feet tall—had been "liberated" from an air-raided station; they were the same ones he'd used to attack the Medicine Ball Caravan, a Warner Brothers-sponsored musical tour

(and film) intended as the next Woodstock, a few years earlier. Tom followed the hippies around in a black Cadillac Deathmobile (similar to the one in *Animal House*) and tried to drown out their peace-and-love vibes with David Peel's grating pro-marijuana music.

I fell out of touch with Tom for a while after his first plan for "rich and famous" misfired. When I saw him again in the fall of 1977, he had a new master plan but couldn't reveal it just yet. Looking back, I think Tom had already decided to make a film covering the Sex Pistols' US tour, which was being announced around that time. It was supposed to begin in late December in the Midwest: Pittsburgh, Cleveland and a few other cities, with a stop in New York to appear on *Saturday Night Live*. (Imagine what *that* would have been like.) However, due to Sex Pistols guitarist Steve Jones's drug bust, the tour was delayed and their TV appearance cancelled, so the first show didn't take place until January 5 in Atlanta.

Tom flew down there the day before. There was no way that he would work with Warner Brothers, the label that had sponsored the Medicine Ball Caravan (and also released *Never Mind the Bollocks, Here's the Sex Pistols* in the US), so he contacted the Pistols' tour manager, Noel Monk, directly. Tom tried bribing Monk, showing him the recent *High Times* cover story on Johnny Rotten and even attempting to give him an antique Packard car. But Monk didn't want any part of Tom or the film. And so they became antagonists—both of them driven by ambition and success, each one insanely paranoid about the other. Without Monk's (or anyone else's) permission, Tom and the film crew he hired began shooting the show in Atlanta, but were soon kicked out of the concert and banned from the rest of the tour.

I was in New York when I got a call from Tom inviting me to that night's show in Memphis, which would be taking place in just a few hours. I rushed to the airport and arrived later that night, past the time the Sex Pistols were supposed to go on. Luckily for me, the show was delayed because Sid Vicious had disappeared. According to Monk's book *12 Days on the Road*, Tom had kidnapped Sid in Memphis and held him for ransom in an attempt to get Warner Brothers to cooperate with his film. I think Monk made this claim to cover up his own incompetence: Sid was looking for drugs and was eventually found in a hospital, high on heroin, with the words "GIMME A FIX" carved into his chest.



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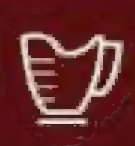
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How to

- Step 1** Put your tincture in a 1-quart non-stick saucepan and heat on low. Cook until almost all of the alcohol has evaporated (approx. 5 minutes). It should look like molasses.
- Step 2** Add emulsion, sweetener, reduced juice, and extract and stir. Remove from heat and let cool for five minutes.
- Step 3** Add cold juice. Then slowly add gelatin, starting with the unflavored. Sprinkle around the top evenly, and repeat with the flavored jello. Then whisk to combine and let sit for 10 minutes.
- Step 4** Put back on the stove on medium heat, and cook around 5-7 minutes, until gummie mixture dissolves and looks clear.
- Step 5** Pour into a glass measuring cup. (The pouring spout will make it easy to put into your molds.)
- Step 6** Pour into molds. Let cool in freezer for 15-20 minutes.
- Step 7** Remove from mold and eat.



Ingredients

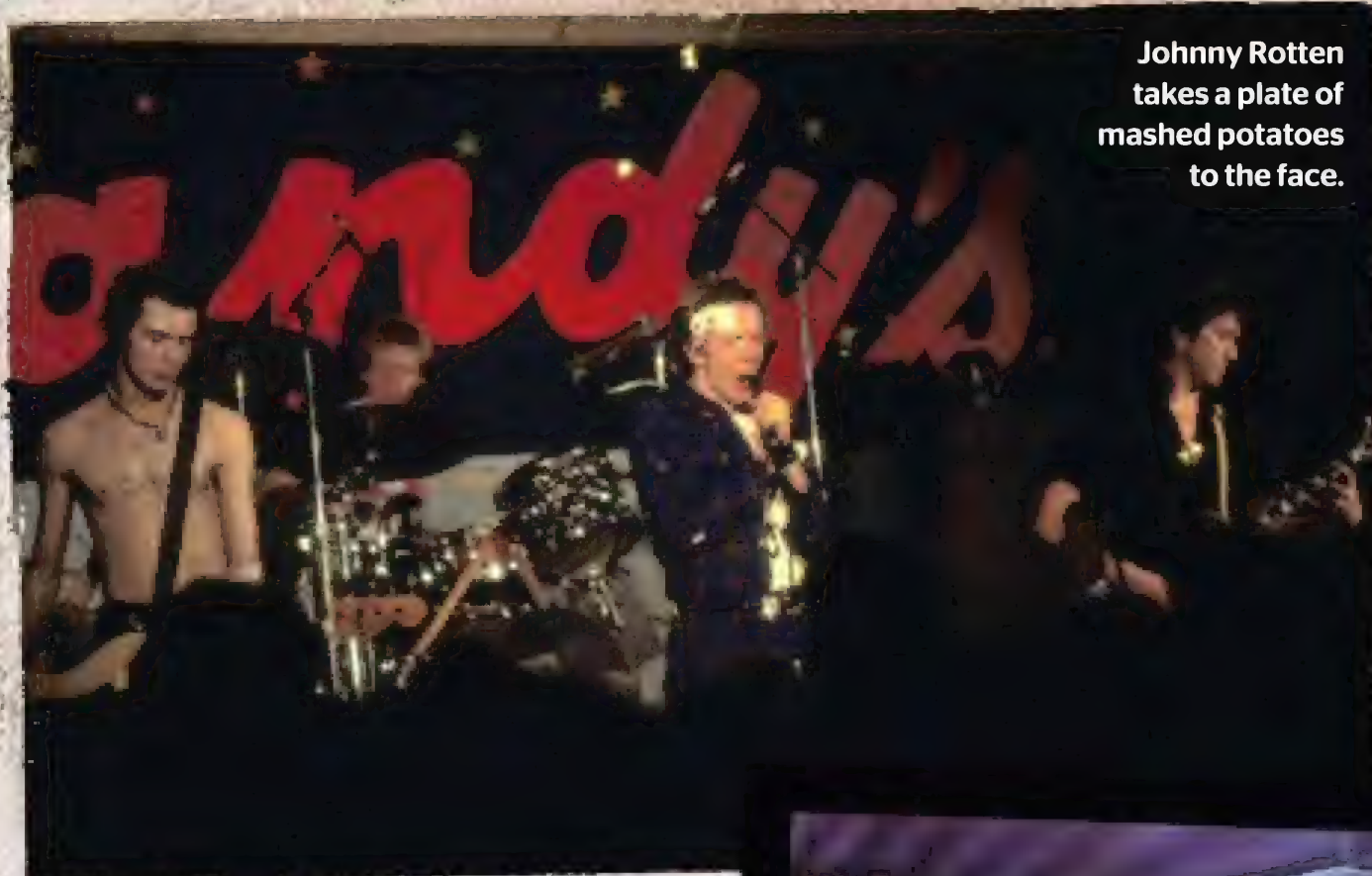
- 1/2 cup MagicalButter tincture (we recommend using alcohol tincture, cook off the alcohol and add 1/4 cup reduced juice)
- 1 1/2 cup Pom Wonderful Juice, or your favorite juice. (1 cup of juice will be reduced to 1/4 cup)
- 1/2 teaspoon lemon emulsion (We recommend LorAnn brand)
- 1 teaspoon flavoring extract, to complement flavor of the gummies you're making
- 4 tablespoons of Monk Fruit or Stevia Sweetener (I recommend using "In The Raw" brand)
- 4 - 1/4 ounces unflavored gelatin
- 2 - 3 ounces flavored jello of your choice

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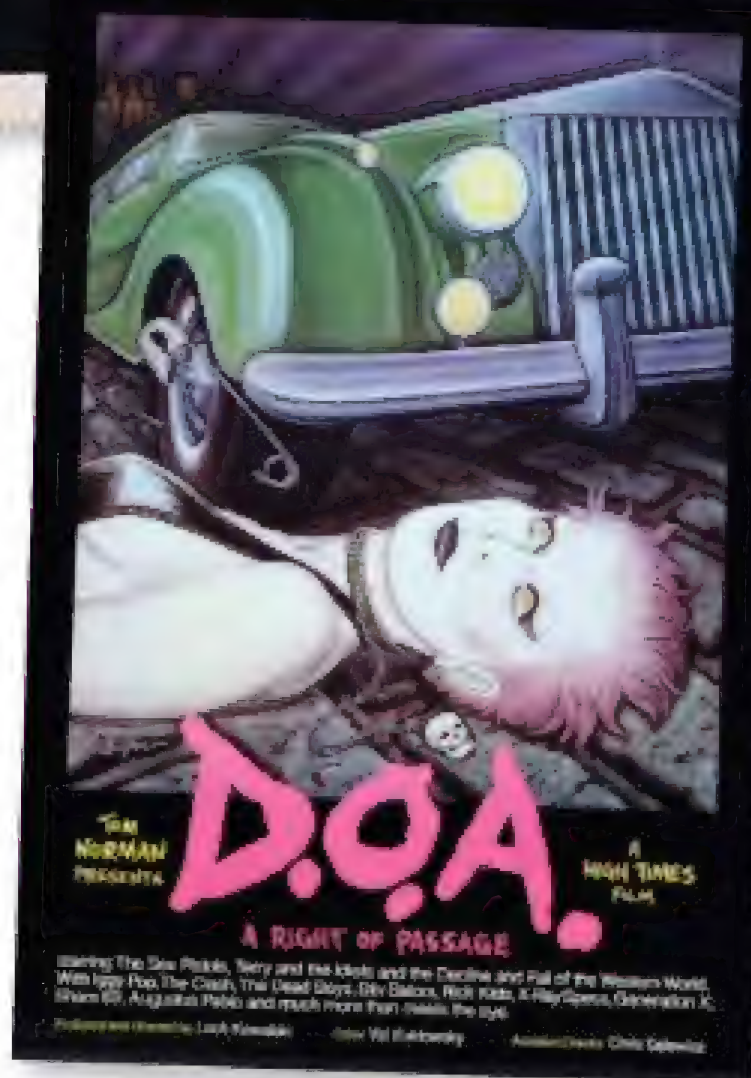
Johnny Rotten takes a plate of mashed potatoes to the face.

Rotten made a point of saying that the CIA was following the tour—an obvious reference to Noel Monk's paranoia about Tom.

The next day, Tom invited me to join him and some associates in a white Cadillac stretch limousine. Tom laid out his plans to do a movie about the tour, have *Punk* magazine publish the book version, and make everyone rich and famous.

Tom had been burned by the world of corporate rock in the past. Back in 1969, he was running the Underground Press Syndicate (UPS) and reached millions of young people through its 200-plus member publications. Forçade and UPS promoted the film *Woodstock* to the mostly hippie readership, then watched in dismay as big corporations cashed in on their work. When Warner Brothers bought the film rights to *Woodstock*, many in the counterculture were outraged: Didn't the filmmakers realize that Warner Brothers had just been purchased by Kinney, a parking-garage company with ties to the Mafia? Worse, the filmmakers gave up all future profits for just \$50,000, whereas Warner Brothers eventually made \$500 million on the deal.

Back in the limo, someone showed me a couple of the gold bars that Tom was using to bribe people on the tour. (I later heard they were actually lead bars painted to look like gold, as in the famous alchemist's trick.) Tom was in communication



with some of the Pistols and insisted they were being held prisoner by Noel Monk and his security crew. The Pistols had allegedly asked Tom if he could procure some belts made of bicycle chains so they could defend themselves. The next show was in San Antonio, and as we headed for the airport, Tom outfitted me in a three-piece western-style suit, complete with a snakeskin belt and cowboy boots. Since we couldn't find anything resembling those bicycle-chain belts, Tom handed me a belt buckle with a large "THC" (for Trans-High Corporation, *High Times*' parent company) emblazoned on it, explaining that it was the next best thing.

Before we got on the plane, Tom bought dozens of magazines about everything from aviation to guns, which he devoured during the flight. He remarked that the price for a private jet he'd been interested in had gone way up, and that his financial advisors were wrong when they talked him out of buying one. Before we landed,

Tom asked me if I knew a good photographer. I recommended Roberta Bayley, who soon joined us. She became very useful once Tom found out that she had an American Express card. It was essential, as we were to learn.

The show at Randy's Rodeo was insane: People showed up to challenge and hopelessly injure the Sex Pistols, and the band did their best to rile them. Early in the show, Sid unslung his bass guitar and tried to whack a heckler in the head a few times. (Instead, he hit a Warner Brothers executive, who had to be hospitalized.) The lights and sound went off immediately after this ... the noise from the crowd sounded like the villagers in a *Frankenstein* film when they gather to kill the monster. Sid took a full beer can right in the mouth, then stuck his chin out and defiantly motioned for more. Someone else threw a plate of KFC mashed potatoes and hit Johnny Rotten in the face. By the end of the night, the pile of beer cans by the stage was knee-deep, and the Pistols came out for their one and only press conference. Rotten made a point of saying that the CIA was following the tour—an obvious reference to Noel Monk's paranoia about Tom.

The only conflict bigger than Tom's battle with Monk and Warner Brothers was the one he was having with his own magazine's staff, led by Andy Kowl, the publisher of *High Times*. Tom, addicted to adventure and aware of his manic spells, had insisted to Andy when hiring him that Andy safeguard the finances of *High Times* and Trans-High Corporation and refuse to allow Tom to spend all of the company's money on any mad schemes. So when Tom called from the tour and insisted that Andy send him a dozen signed checks and a big bag of cash, Andy figured that Tom was in another crazy state and refused to cooperate. Tom threatened Andy, promised he would be fired after the tour, and did everything in his power to get money to finance the film. And still Andy refused.

On the tour, we noticed definite signs of Tom's mania. When we landed in Dallas, we watched as he had a very emotional conversation on an airport pay phone. Tom was so angry that his face turned red. He ended the conversation by banging the phone receiver so hard that I was amazed it didn't break into pieces.

After catching the Pistols' sound check at the Longhorn Ballroom, Tom summoned us to his hotel. We didn't want to go because we'd already seen how pissed off he was, but we were there as his guests, and there was no way I was getting



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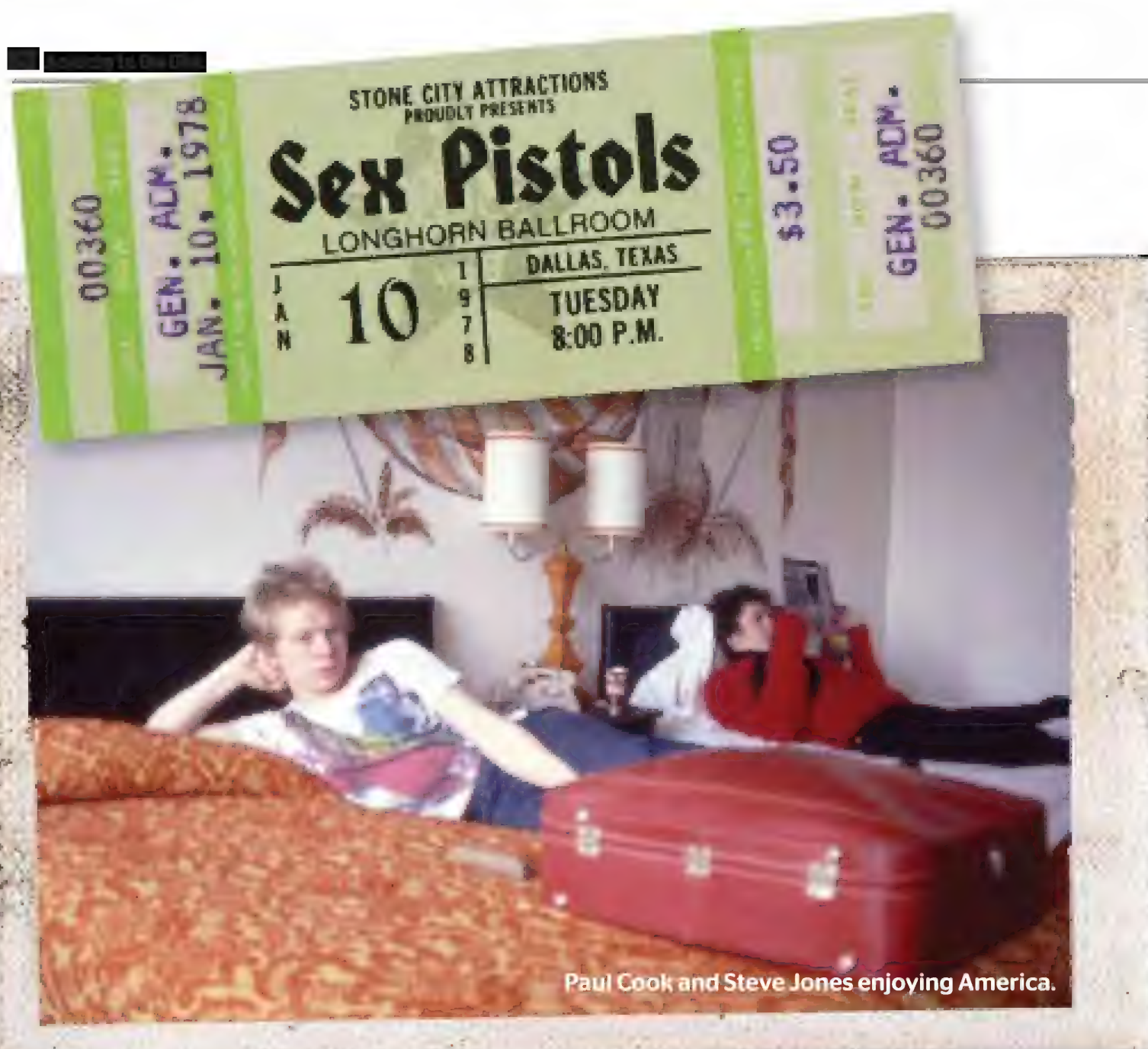
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Paul Cook and Steve Jones enjoying America.

After catching the Pistols' sound check at the Longhorn Ballroom, Tom summoned us to his hotel. We didn't want to go because we'd already seen how pissed off he was.

kicked off this tour for disobeying Tom, foul mood or not.

We took the private elevator up to his suite, which encompassed the entire top floor of the hotel. I think Tom was making a point to Andy Kowl about trying to prevent him from spending his own money when he wanted to. I could not believe the luxury all around us: Ming vases, Oriental rugs, vast rooms, incredibly big bathrooms. But Tom's depression was like a cold fog rolling in through the suite: As exhilarating as it was to see him when he was going up the roller coaster, it was miserable when he started downhill.

Forçade sat in the middle of a huge bed and ordered us to call room service. Roberta objected: "We just ate!" Tom got angrier: "Just order the most expensive item on the menu!" So we did. (I added a few beers.) While we waited for the food, Tom reiterated his plan: 1) "Never mention to anyone that you know me." 2) "Get as close as you can to the Sex Pistols. Forward any information that might be useful. I must talk with the Sex Pistols!" And 3) "You're all going to make a lot of money from this. You'll see. Just follow my plan."

Roberta ventured to tell Tom that she was getting worried about her American

Express bill, which was now running into the thousands of dollars. Tom retaliated by throwing one of those "gold" bars at her feet and spat: "You want money? There's your fucking money!" Roberta began to cry. Then the phone rang, and when he jumped out of bed, we noticed that he had pierced nipples—very unusual in 1978. I talked Tom into letting us go see the Pistols, since that was why we were all there. Tom agreed and waved us away.

The show in Dallas was one of the best, mostly because Sid was Sid, getting head-butts from three Los Angeles groupies, which gave him a nosebleed. He wiped the blood all over his chest and played to the crowd ... until the biker security goons started attacking those girls for daring to touch Sid! This random, unprovoked violence from the security goons went on throughout the tour.

Tom called me as soon as we'd checked into the Holiday Inn in Tulsa, OK, for the band's next gig and instructed me to buy the largest set of steer horns I could find and give them to Johnny Rotten. (Rotten must have mentioned to someone that he wanted them.) Roberta and I both thought that Tom had finally lost his mind, but we set off for the hotel gift shop, which had a

huge, six-foot set. The next morning, as I was about to check out and return them, I ran into Johnny in the hotel elevator. He stared at the horns in amazement: "Cor, blimey!" And so I was able to gift them to Johnny Rotten at last. When I told Tom the news, he was ecstatic.

Steve Jones, the guitarist, and Paul Cook, the drummer, were tired of living in the tour bus, so we ran into them and their manager, Malcolm McLaren, at the airport. We were sitting on a bench making small talk when Tom appeared out of nowhere. They eyed him suspiciously as he said hello to Roberta and me, then asked us to introduce him to Steve and Paul. We did so, and after he left, Paul said, "I don't like that guy."

I was amazed by all of this: Tom had been telling us the whole time not to tell anyone we knew him, and then he revealed our relationship just like that? He'd broken his own rules of secrecy! I never found out why, but this event basically sealed our doom as far as Warner Brothers and Noel Monk were concerned. Later that day, Sid and Johnny were on the tour bus, on their way to the final show in San Francisco, when Monk found out that I was the one who'd given Johnny the steer horns. Monk had the bus come to a complete stop, then he grabbed the horns, dragged them outside and chopped them into little pieces, convinced that it was all a devious plot by the CIA to plant drugs on the Sex Pistols so that the US government could have them arrested and thrown in prison. (Needless to say, no drugs were ever found in the horns.)

Later, when Roberta and I tried to get into the Winterland Ballroom with our complimentary tickets and backstage passes, Monk and his biker security guards spotted us and brandished their fists, still insisting that we were CIA agents. Then they shoved us out and warned us not to return. "Fuck them," Roberta and I said in agreement. So we bought new tickets and made our way to the top of the arena, avoiding the security goons.

It ended up being the worst show of the tour, and the Sex Pistols broke up the next day. We returned to New York and went to work on a great story for *Punk*. Meanwhile, Tom hired a small theater, summoned the *High Times* staff, and ceremoniously fired Andy and the employees who supported him in a public execution.

Lesson: You did not fuck with Tom Forçade.

A few weeks later, Tom invited me to go to Jamaica. He'd heard that Johnny Rotten was recording *continued on page 136*

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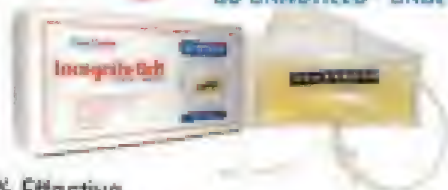
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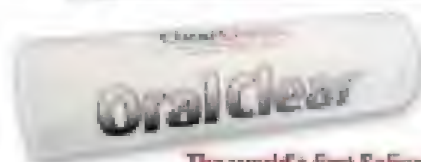


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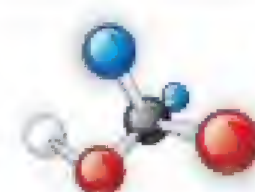
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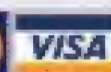
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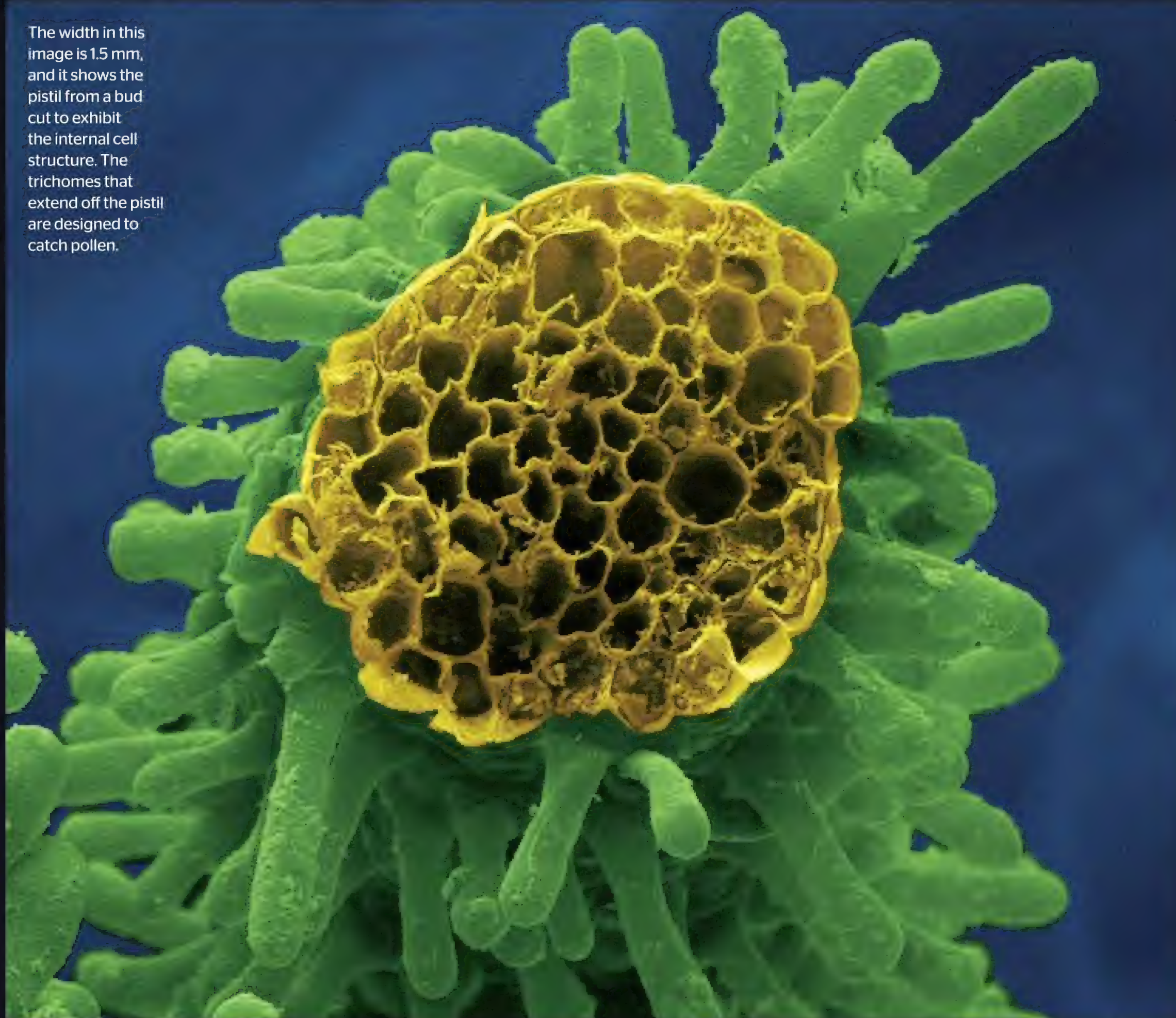
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The width in this image is 1.5 mm, and it shows the pistil from a bud cut to exhibit the internal cell structure. The trichomes that extend off the pistil are designed to catch pollen.



Cannabis Under the Microscope

A new book takes a close look—a really close look—at the cannabis plant. *By Ted Kinsman and Ford McCann*

Last year, I was asked to collect images for a new book, *Cannabis Under the Microscope: A Visual Exploration of Medicinal Sativa and C. Indica* by Ford McCann, and I decided the time was ripe to use modern imaging techniques to photograph this unique plant. Scanning electron microscopes (SEMs) were used for the majority of the images in the book, and also for the majority of the pictures selected for this article.

Preparing samples for electron microscopy is quite difficult, as all liquids have to be removed before the sample can enter the high vacuum required by the SEM. Several growers in California donated samples preserved in glutaraldehyde. (The samples used in an SEM are typically less than one-eighth

of an inch in size.) The samples then go through a series of alcohol baths, from 10% ethanol alcohol to 100% alcohol, to remove all of the water from the organic material. This process takes about 24 hours. After the 100% alcohol bath, the samples are placed in a critical-point dryer, a device that uses a unique property of liquid carbon dioxide to remove all residual alcohol from the sample.

The samples then move to the sputter coater, where they are coated with a thin layer of conductive gold. One of the requirements of a scanning electron microscope is that the samples need to be conductive and allow residual electrons a path to ground (a bit like having a lightning rod on your house). The finished samples are then placed on special mounts and are ready to be imaged

in the SEM. The resulting images are all in black and white, so Photoshop is used to liven them up with some (false) color.

I've always been a bit of a microscope nut and have my own scanning electron microscope in my living room as well as three at work at the Rochester Institute of Technology, where I also teach microscopy. Working on crazy microscope projects is pretty routine for me: I've also recently finished imaging projects on fire ants, microworm teeth and rotten spalted wood.

Cannabis Under the Microscope: A Visual Exploration of Medicinal Sativa and C. Indica is a digital release on Kindle. The images were created using a range of techniques, from macro photography to scanning electron microscopy.

An SEM image of the bud of a cannabis plant (with false color). This image shows the diverse forms that the trichomes exhibit. The bud of the female plant is also the location of the highest concentration of THC.





A 4 mm-wide SEM view of the female flower pistil. These are very difficult structures to prepare for viewing in the SEM vacuum. The sign of a well-prepared sample is that the majority of the glandular structures are full and not collapsed or deflated. Samples like this were prepared with a 2.5% solution of glutaraldehyde within minutes of being collected from a living plant.

An individual glandular trichome. Approximately 0.4 mm high, the glandular trichome is the source of the highest concentration of THC in cannabis.



OVER THE HILL

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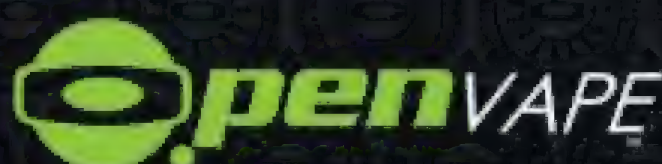
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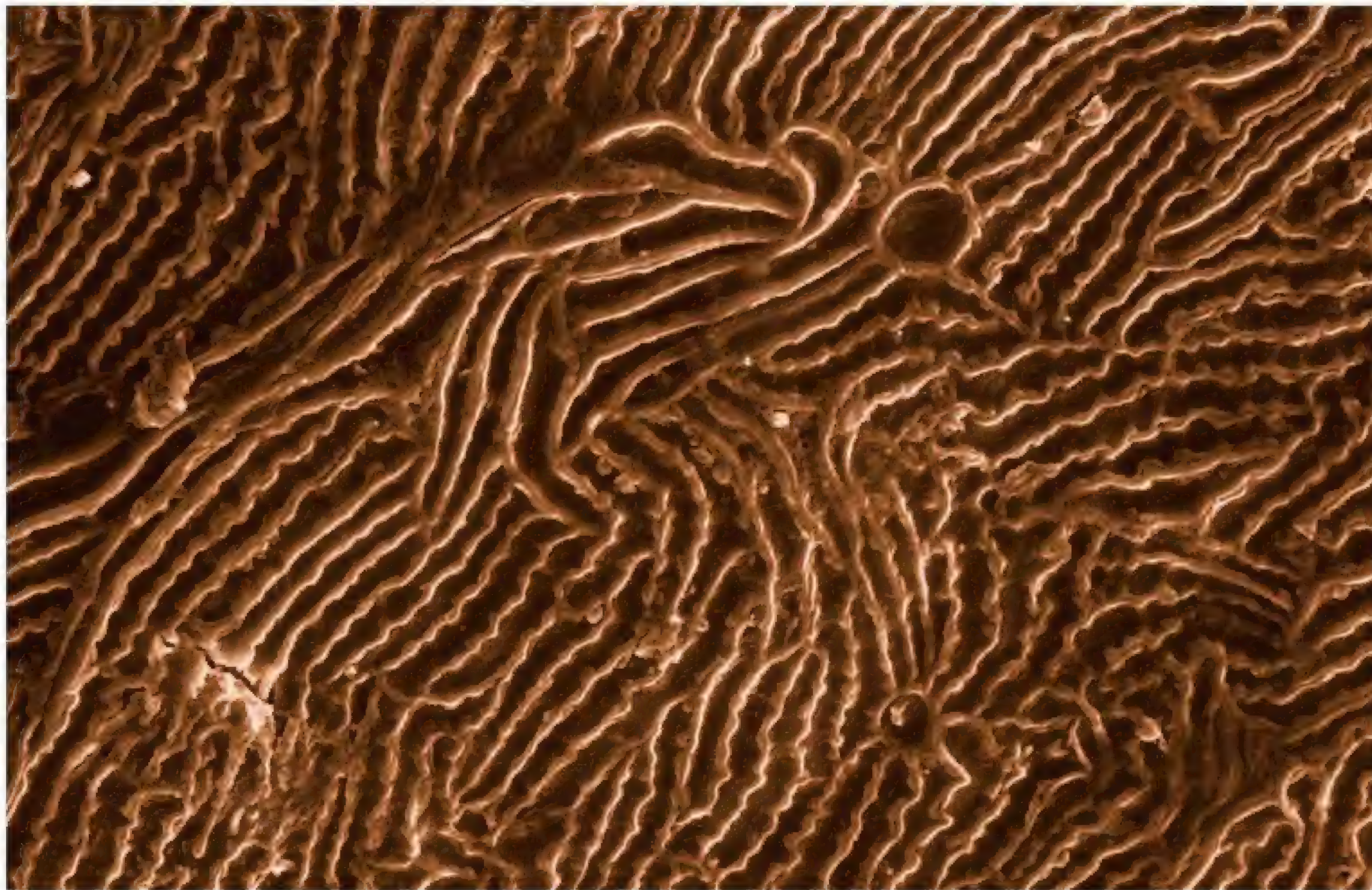


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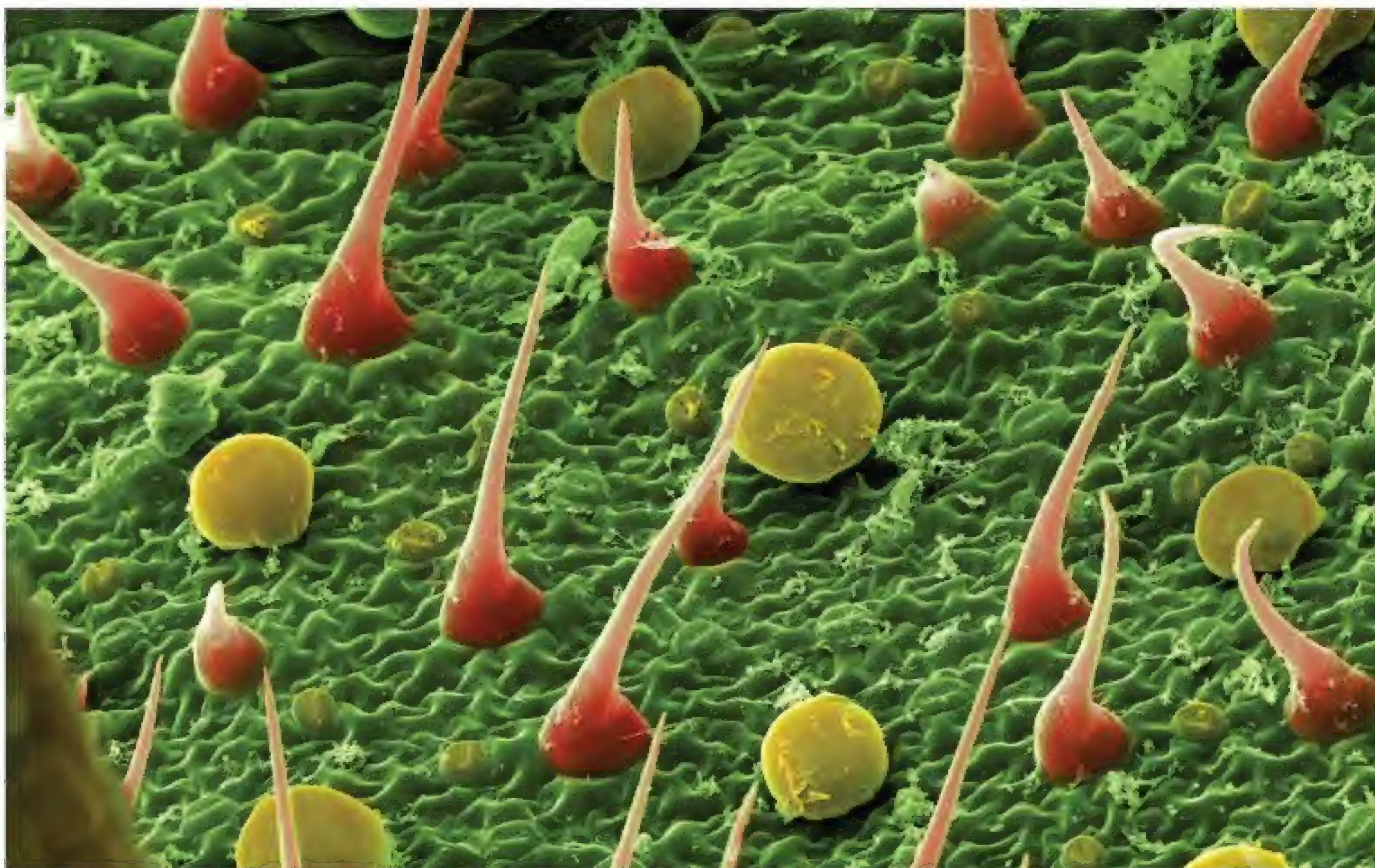


IT'S WHAT'S INSIDE THAT COUNTS

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(Above) The surface of a cannabis seed, seen under a scanning electron microscope. Magnification of the image shows a section of the seed coat approximately 0.2 mm across. The surface of the seed is a grooved structure that serves to absorb water and also, it is postulated, to make the growth of bacteria difficult. **(Below)** An SEM image of the bottom of the leaf—both the long, needlelike defensive trichomes and the short, spherical glandular trichomes that produce THC. If you look closely, you can see the stoma structures scattered around the leaf surface, which allow the leaf to breathe. These structures look like little lips strewn across the bottom of the leaf. They typically open at night and close during the day. ✱





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The 1936 film *Reefer Madness* was one of the era's most ludicrous portrayals of "The Devil's Weed."

From Reefer Madness to Cannabis Sanity

A brief history of the legalization movement. *By Keith Stroup*

AS WE CELEBRATE THE VICTORIES THAT MARIJUANA, BOTH MEDICAL AND RECREATIONAL, IS EXPERIENCING ACROSS THE NATION, LET'S NOT FORGET HOW LONG IT TOOK TO GET US TO THIS POINT. ONE MAN WHO'S BEEN WITNESS TO THE UPS AND DOWNS AND INS AND OUTS OF THE STRUGGLE FOR LEGAL CANNABIS IS KEITH STROUP, THE FOUNDER OF NORML. WE ASKED KEITH TO RECOUNT THE DIFFICULT LOWS AND EXTRAORDINARY HIGHS OF THE PAST 40 YEARS.

Marijuana cultivation in the United States can trace its lineage back some 400 years. For most of this nation's history, farmers grew marijuana—hemp—for its fiber content. The first American hemp crop was planted in 1611. George Washington and Thomas Jefferson cultivated marijuana and advocated a hemp-based economy. Some colonies even made hemp cultivation compulsory and called its production necessary for the "wealth and protection of the country." Marijuana

cultivation was an agricultural staple in the United States throughout the turn of the 20th century.

Marijuana became the target of yellow journalists and prohibitionist politicians starting in the 1920s. Recreational use of the drug was demonized and shamelessly associated with migrant workers and the African-American jazz community. Hemp was rechristened "marihuana," and the plant's long history as a cash crop was replaced with a new image: "The Devil's Weed."

In 1930, the federal government instituted the Federal Bureau of Narcotics

(FBN), headed by the now-infamous Harry Anslinger. The agency launched a misinformation campaign against the marijuana plant and its users and enrolled the services of Hollywood and several tabloid newspapers. Headlines across the nation heralded the insanity and violence induced by “reefer smoking.” Sensational accounts of rapes and murders committed by immigrants allegedly intoxicated by marijuana became widespread. For example, a news bulletin issued by the FBN in the mid-1930s asserted that a user of marijuana “becomes a fiend with savage or ‘cave man’ tendencies. His sex desires are aroused and some of the most horrible crimes result. He hears light and sees sound. To get away from it, he suddenly becomes violent and may kill.”

It was this campaign of disinformation and fear that led Congress to pass the Marijuana Tax Act in 1937, effectively making the possession and transfer of marijuana illegal. The Marijuana Tax Act remained the law of the land until the Supreme Court ruled it unconstitutional in 1969, in a high-profile case, *Leary v. United States*. Former Harvard professor and LSD advocate Timothy Leary was busted returning from Mexico with a significant quantity of marijuana, and his defense team decided to challenge the constitutionality of the law. They won a decision for their client, with the Court holding that Leary’s Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination had been violated by the Marijuana Tax Act’s provisions. In response, Congress passed the Controlled Substances Act as Title II of the Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970.

Pot Gets a Clean Bill of Health

Thanks mainly to the efforts of New York Congressman Ed Koch—later to become mayor of New York City—the Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act included provisions establishing a federal commission that would ultimately recommend decriminalizing marijuana



Richard Nixon
coined the term
“War on Drugs.”

Headlines across the nation heralded the insanity and violence induced by “reefer smoking.”

use. The recommendations of the 1971–’72 commission still stand as the most sensible plan for dealing with cannabis ever to be proposed by the federal government.

Koch’s amendment established a National Commission on Marijuana and Drug Abuse to conduct a two-year study and recommend policy changes. The proposed act already had strong support from law enforcement because it was tough on drug users; the incentive for Congress to support Koch’s amendment lay in its provision that the simple possession of small amounts of any drug—including marijuana—would be lowered from a felony to a misdemeanor. Jail time for possession of even a single joint could be up to a year, but that would be the maximum sentence possible, and offenders would no longer be saddled with a felony record for minor possession offenses.

The Koch amendment was adopted,

and in 1970 the Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act—including the Controlled Substances Act, which formed the legal foundation for the subsequent War on Drugs—was signed into law by President Richard Nixon.

When the Controlled Substances Act was being debated in Congress, disagreements arose over how marijuana should be categorized. As a sop to some of the body’s conservative members, who were uncomfortable with the Koch amendment and feared that the proposed commission might recommend legalizing marijuana, Congress agreed to temporarily place marijuana under Schedule I of the CSA, pending receipt of the commission’s report and recommendations. The Congressional Record of that debate makes it clear that marijuana’s relegation to Schedule I was intended as a temporary measure until Congress received the commission’s report. But as we know, marijuana is still classified as Schedule I, 40-plus years after the commission called for decriminalization.

Season in the Sun

In 1970, radicalized by the protest movement against the Vietnam War and inspired by the work of Ralph Nader, I founded the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, a public-interest lobby for marijuana smokers. I had managed to avoid the draft following my graduation from law school, and the experience left me looking for ways to use my legal training to influence public policy for the better. After trying marijuana for the first time as a freshman in law school, I had become a regular smoker, so I decided to focus on ending pot prohibition and the senseless arrest of its users.

Marijuana smoking in those days was intertwined with the antiwar movement, seen by many as a symbol of opposition to the establishment. Marijuana was prevalent at antiwar demonstrations; draft resisters were often shown burning their draft cards while smoking a joint.



WARNING: CANNABIS IS AN ACCUMULATOR PLANT ...

Did you know Cannabis was used at the Chernobyl site to help pull radioactive contaminants out of the soil?

They used Cannabis for soil remediation because it's an accumulator plant that absorbs nearly everything in its environment. While soil remediation sounds great, the fact is, the cannabis plants were now highly radioactive and had to be disposed of properly as well.

COULD YOU IMAGINE A PATIENT SMOKING RADIOACTIVE WEED?

It's a scary thought, isn't it? In short, cannabis accumulates everything in its environment—including potential toxins—and retains them even after harvest.

In other words, whatever your plants accumulated while growing—you are now smoking. That's why you need to know how to protect yourself and your patients from potential medical marijuana toxicity.

The entire story, along with many other little-known, yet vitally important facts are revealed in a new Bulgarian Academy of Sciences white paper titled:

"HOW TO PROTECT MEDICAL MARIJUANA PATIENTS FROM HEAVY METAL TOXICITY ... WHILE RAISING BUD WEIGHT, THC, AND CANNABINOIDS"

The author of the white paper, Julian Karadjov, PhD, reveals facts medical marijuana growers absolutely **MUST** know. Here are just a few ...

- The little-known fact that makes Cannabis totally different than other plants and why not knowing this can endanger the lives of your patients!

- Why the nutrients you feed your plants

could actually be turning them toxic (make sure you check your bloom boosters for this one common ingredient that could be toxic)

- Exactly which heavy metals are toxic and how to protect your patients from ingesting them (There are some heavy metals that are completely harmless. Get the complete list inside)

- Surprising plant tissue sample results of Berlin, Hash Plant, and White Rhino strains of medical marijuana (goes completely against what most growers think is needed to maximize size, weight and potency!)

- The TRUTH about so-called "Pharmaceutical Grade" salts and chelates

- Why you can't trust regulators and other government "watch dogs" to make sure the hydroponics nutrients you feed your plants are safe



- The 2 biggest MYTHS about natural and synthetic chelators and their role in toxic metal absorption.

- How to guarantee—with 100% confidence—that your medical marijuana is a pure and harmless as filtered drinking water!

- How the University of Mississippi achieved 21% more yield from their cannabis plants with one simple change to their feeding program

- How to nearly DOUBLE the amount of THC and other cannabinoids your plants produce the very next run you start (new test results from Hedron Analytical Inc.)

- As Seen On TV: the dangers of Medical Marijuana Cadmium poisoning (and how to help your patients completely avoid this risk!)

And there's more too ... The dangers of "home brew" hydroponics nutrient formulations ... African Marijuana cadmium dangers ... plus other little-known facts most growers never hear about.

The bottom line is: if you grow medical marijuana and care about the safety of your patients at all (or you use marijuana yourself) then you must read this white paper.

It's free to access and available online. Simply visit

AdvancedNutrients.com/HeavyMetal

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 **Advanced Nutrients**
Revolutionizing Plant Potential

President Jimmy Carter, whose sons were both marijuana smokers, called on Congress in 1977 to decriminalize minor marijuana offenses. Pot had moved aboveground by the '70s, and we felt we were close to ending prohibition.

When the National Commission on Marijuana and Drug Abuse issued its report in 1972, NORML was one of the few institutions working to implement its recommendations. We began offering support in the form of law-enforcement experts, doctors, and former staff members from the commission to any state legislator willing to introduce a bill decriminalizing marijuana.

In 1973, Oregon became the first state to adopt a version of the commission's recommendations, establishing a maximum civil fine of \$100 for possession of an ounce or less, with no possibility of jail time and no record as a criminal offender. In 1974, polling determined that Oregon had seen no increase in marijuana use after passage of the law, and a majority of the state's citizens supported the new approach. Armed with this data, we redoubled our efforts, and 1975 became the year of big legislative breakthroughs. By the end of that year, five more states had decriminalized marijuana, including Ohio and California. Minnesota adopted decriminalization in 1976; New York, North Carolina and Mississippi in 1977; and Nebraska in 1978. In all, nearly a dozen states stopped arresting marijuana users in the six years after the commission's report was issued. We assumed that the rest of the country would not be far behind.

However, the political mood in Washington was becoming more conservative, and our impressive string of victories had run its course. It was the era of Ronald Reagan, with his push for mandatory-minimum drug sentences and the adoption of federal sentencing guidelines, which have been responsible for a quadruple increase in the US prison population. First lady Nancy Reagan's shockingly simplistic "Just Say No" campaign—a social inoculation strategy that attempted to use peer pressure to discourage experimentation by kids—resulted in more than 12,000 clubs in schools across the country by 1988.

We were in for a long, cold political winter in which we would see no further legislative victories until 1996. By then, the focus of the debate had switched from decriminalizing the recreational use of marijuana to legalizing its medical use.



Cannabis was often an ingredient in dubious "tonics" such as this one, which also includes chloroform.

Cannabis remained a part of the United States Pharmacopoeia until 1941, removed only after Congress passed the Marijuana Tax Act in 1937.

A Homegrown Revolution

Another major influence on the movement was the increase in domestically grown marijuana. In previous decades, we had experienced "droughts," sometimes lasting months, before a new crop could be harvested and smuggled into the US. Our reliance on imported marijuana gave the government leverage over smokers. To the

extent that the Feds could cut off imports, we had nothing to smoke.

But this would soon change as more and more Americans learned how to grow high-quality marijuana indoors. And much of the credit for that achievement goes to *High Times* and its colorful, creative founder, Tom Forçade.

I met Tom in 1972. He was a marijuana smuggler active in left-wing politics, both as a Yippie and as founder of the Underground Press Syndicate. Tom launched *High Times* in 1974, providing a monthly forum that not only taught smokers how to cultivate marijuana but also showed them they were not alone, but part of a growing national constituency. *High Times* was instrumental, much like NORML, in bringing cannabis culture out of the closet.

Mighty Medicine

References to marijuana as a medicine date back nearly 5,000 years. Western medicine embraced marijuana's medicinal properties in the mid-1800s. Cannabis remained a part of the United States Pharmacopoeia until 1941, removed only after Congress passed the Marijuana Tax Act in 1937.

Modern research suggests that cannabis is valuable in a wide range of clinical applications, including pain relief—particularly the neuropathic pain of patients with multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's and similar diseases. Marijuana is also a powerful appetite stimulant, especially for patients suffering from HIV and AIDS, and it is effective in reducing or eliminating the nausea and vomiting that afflicts cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy or radiation.

In 1973, NORML filed its first petition to reschedule marijuana so that it would be available for medical use by seriously ill patients, but the petition was stonewalled at every turn. Finally, in 1988, a DEA chief administrative law judge ruled that marijuana is one of the safest drugs known to humankind and that it should be made available as a medicine. But this ruling was rejected by the head of the DEA, who claimed it relied too heavily on anecdotal evidence. NORML appealed, but the US Court of Appeals allowed the decision to stand.

With the administrative reclassification of marijuana blocked, medical marijuana advocates began to focus their efforts on voter initiatives, with Proposition 215 in California being the first to qualify for the ballot. Prop. 215 became law in November of 1996, starting a movement that spread throughout most of the country over the next two decades. Today, 22 states and the



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District of Columbia have a medical marijuana program in place, with additional states joining the list every year.

The medical marijuana movement has caused many Americans to rethink their views on cannabis, which has led naturally to an examination of the merits of legalizing marijuana for all adults, not just patients. Medical use provided a transition from “reefer madness” to the

are finally winning the hearts and minds of a majority of non-smokers, without whose support we could not prevail in this fight.

The big political breakthrough came in November of 2012, when legalization initiatives in Colorado and Washington were approved by voters in both states. Those two victories have almost totally changed the drug-policy debate in America—and around the world.



This would have been impossible 20 years ago—marijuana on display at the LA Cup in 2014.

What sounded like a radical idea just a few years ago—legalizing, regulating and taxing marijuana—began to be viewed as a common-sense solution to a 75-year-old problem.

acceptance of marijuana as a recreational drug—and a safer alternative than alcohol—for adult use.

California voters qualified a full legalization proposition for the ballot in 2010. That initiative failed, despite receiving 47 percent of the vote. While the loss was disappointing, it nonetheless gave new energy and attention to the goal of legalization.

What sounded to a majority of Americans like a radical idea just a few years ago—legalizing, regulating and taxing marijuana like alcohol or tobacco—began to be viewed as a common-sense solution to a 75-year-old problem. A 2013 Gallup poll found an amazing level of support—58 percent—for legalization nationwide. We

The majority of our non-smoking allies are not pro-pot in any traditional sense; rather, they are anti-prohibition. They’ve become convinced, just as most non-drinkers were by the end of alcohol prohibition, that the War on Pot has inflicted far more harm on society than the use of the drug it is intended to suppress.

States vs. Feds

The conflict between state and federal law remains an issue. Because of the supremacy clause of the US Constitution, whenever the courts find that a “positive conflict” exists, federal law is supreme and overrules state law.

There was a very real concern that the

federal government might seek to prevent the voter initiatives in Colorado and Washington from being implemented. But instead, the Obama administration did what many thought they would never see: It announced that it would permit these states to implement their legalization laws, so long as they made a serious effort to minimize the diversion of marijuana to other states; actively discouraged adolescent use; and otherwise regulated their state-legal cannabusinesses in a responsible manner. This was perhaps the most important support that Obama could have offered, as it provided a grace period for the remaining years of his administration, during which states have the opportunity to demonstrate that they can legalize marijuana responsibly, unimpeded by federal interference.

But in the end, to ensure that these state laws remain operable over the long term, we must change federal law. There is pending legislation in Congress to accomplish just that, but we are not yet close to having majority support. Until this happens, a new administration could undermine the progress we have made. Our best protection against such a setback is to demonstrate that legalizing marijuana works for everyone and is preferable to prohibition.

Into the Future

Today, even in states that have legalized marijuana, an employee testing positive for THC can be fired without showing impairment on the job. Drivers in many states can be found guilty of driving under the influence of drugs if even a residue of THC is found in their blood, also without any impairment. And the mere fact that a parent smokes marijuana can be used by a child welfare agency as evidence that the parent is unfit to retain custody of their child.

We still have much work to do, even in states that have partially or fully legalized marijuana.

Our goal at NORML is to ensure that any regulatory system meets the basic needs of consumers. We need a product that’s convenient, affordable and safe, as well as free from pesticides and molds. We also need to know the strength of the THC and CBD levels. And to ensure that there’s enough affordable good-quality marijuana available on the market, we demand the right to grow our own if we don’t like what the market has to offer. Americans will never be truly free until the government gets out of this aspect of our private lives altogether. 🌿



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Senior cultivation editor Danny Danko digs into the *High Times* archives to reveal the ganja growrooms and outdoor pot fields that transformed the way marijuana is produced today.

The Greatest Pot G



ardens of All Time

"Field of Dreams"
(January 1995)



"Field of Dreams"

(January 1995)

Article by Chris Simunek (Gene Christian), photos by Kent Sea

Grower: Jack the Dirt Farmer

Plant count: 300

Medium: Soil and cow manure

In 1995, our intrepid then-reporter, Chris Simunek (now *High Times*' editor-in-chief), traveled below the Mason-Dixon Line to visit one of the ballsiest and most eye-popping outdoor gardens ever grown. The breathtaking centerfold tells it all: hundreds of flowering plants grown in full sun, just barely concealed by the surrounding corn-stalks serving as camouflage. And all this was taking place in the Deep South, where the penalties for pot growing are beyond harsh.

The plants would go outside around the first of June and then grow all summer long in the hazy Southern heat. By harvest time, the huge colas on these naturally produced plants—fertilized by cow shit—towered over the corn. Jack's simple but highly effective methods resulted in super-healthy plants and one of the most iconic *High Times* covers of all time.

"The Million Dollar Growroom"

(October 1996)

Article by Professor Afghani, photos by Kent Sea

Grower: Professor Afghani

Plant count: 320

Medium: Hydroponics, using a rockwool drip system in trays

Announced on the cover in big, bold letters, "The Million Dollar Growroom" was irresistible to cultivators interested in using innovative techniques to make piles of cash. Seemingly overnight, the grow game had been changed forever, and high indoor yields became the new reality.

In this well-ordered garden, row upon row of buds were planted in rockwool cubes over slabs in trays containing nutrient solution, which dripped back down into the reservoirs. This was not some closet grow with a couple of buckets of smelly dirt, but a laboratory setup capable of real production. Professor Afghani's straightforward article is a step-by-step review of the basics—from starting mother plants and rooting clones to irrigating the flower room and utilizing ventilation and CO₂ enrichment to harvest over a million dollars' worth of pot in a single year.



"Trichome Technologies: A Scientific Approach to Growing"

(January 1999)

Article by K, photos by Kent Sea

Growers: K and Sharky

Plant count: 219

Medium: Rockwool with an automated-drip hydroponic system

K's approach has always been to apply science and maximize efficiency in the growroom, and as a result many of his gardens have appeared in the pages of *High Times*. The penultimate Trichome Technologies article from 1999 featured one of his most inspired creations: Clean, automated and with three 15,000-BTU refrigeration units to control the humidity and temperature, K's futuristic setup inspired many *HT* readers to strive for more greatness. Using different feeding schedules for every week of growth and sensors with solenoid switches to master the environment, this was not some stereotypical hippie's idea of a pot garden, but rather an all-out geekfest. And dabbers, take note: K talks of "developing a laboratory capable of producing honey oil with an 80% THC content" ... way back in 1999!



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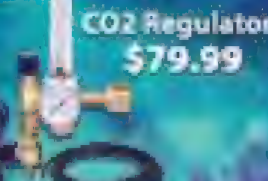

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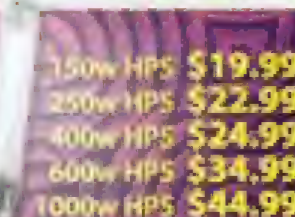
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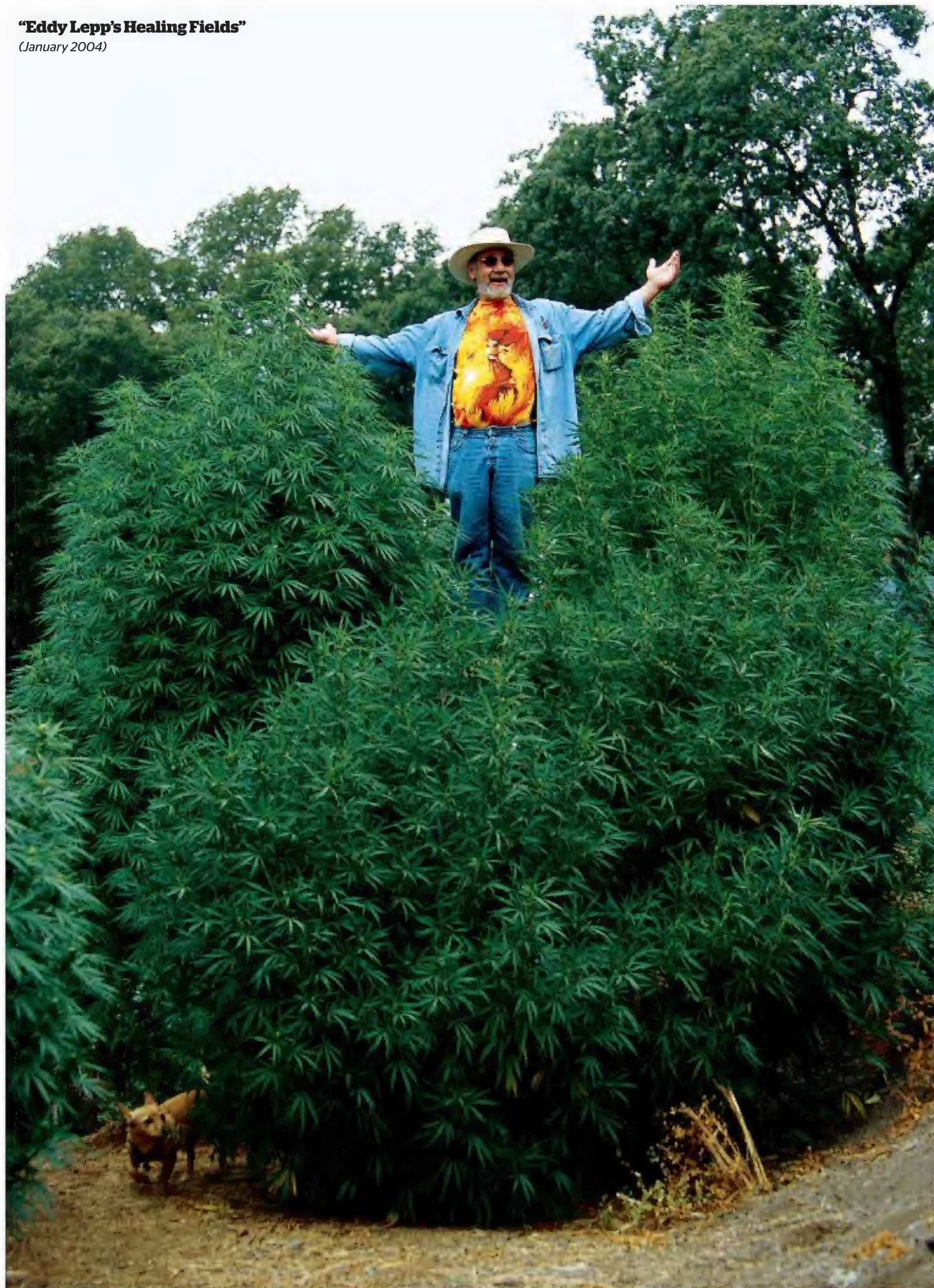


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“Eddy Lepp’s Healing Fields”

(January 2004)





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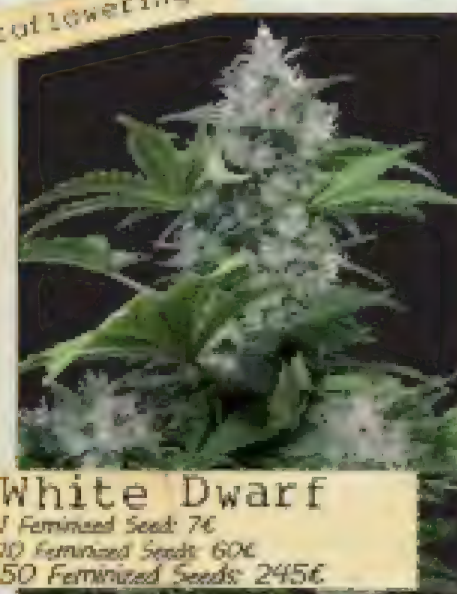
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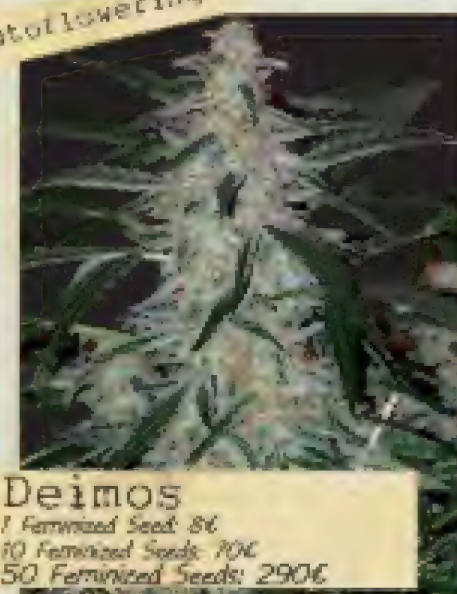
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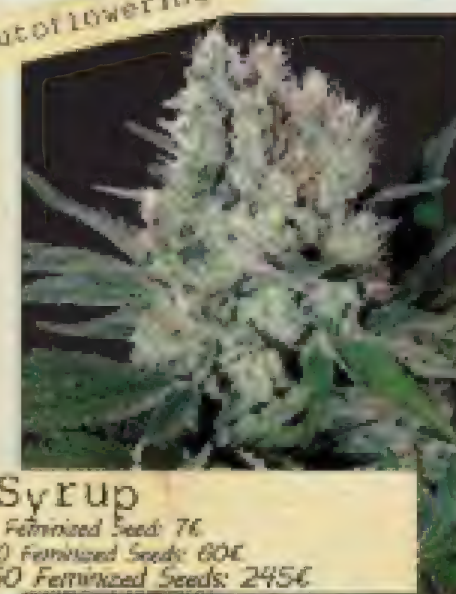
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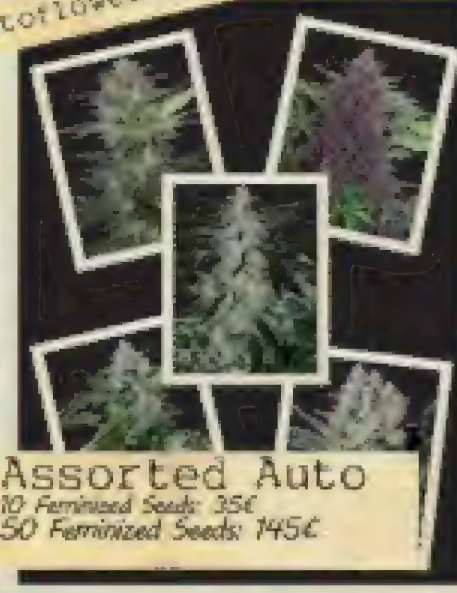
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“Eddy Lepp’s Healing Fields”

(January 2004)

Article by Kyle Kushman,

photos by MG Imaging

Growers: Eddy Lepp and friends

Plant count: 32,524

Medium: Organic soil outdoors

If you want to talk about game-changers, nothing shocked the system like Eddy Lepp’s massive grow op in Lake County, CA, in the early 2000s. Eddy’s medical marijuana collective employed teams of workers to produce massive amounts of pot for patients, pioneering light-deprivation techniques and starting their seeds indoors in December to get a minimum of 2 to 3 pounds per plant.

My friend and *HT* colleague Kyle Kushman lovingly detailed the great work being done at Eddy’s Medicinal Gardens twice in the mag, and Eddy was named Freedom Fighter of the Year at our next Cannabis Cup in Amsterdam. Sadly, the DEA raided his garden in 2005, and Eddy was later sentenced to 10 years in prison. In a poignant reminder that the War on Pot continues, he’s still serving that sentence today, at age 61, with a release date of January 13, 2018. Eddy loves getting letters, and you can reach him at:
CHARLES EDWARD LEPP
#90157-011
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“Colombian Green”

(April 2005)

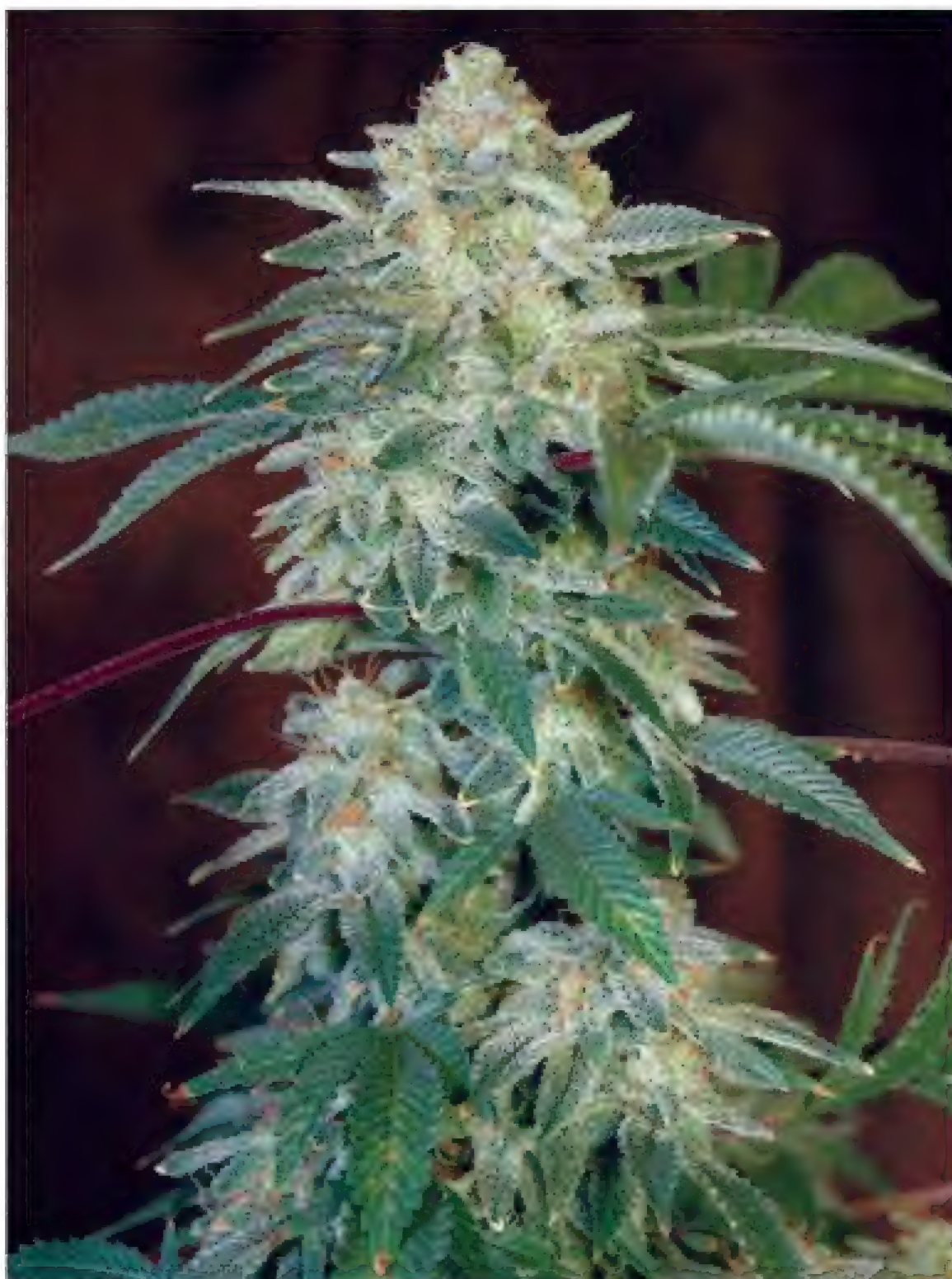
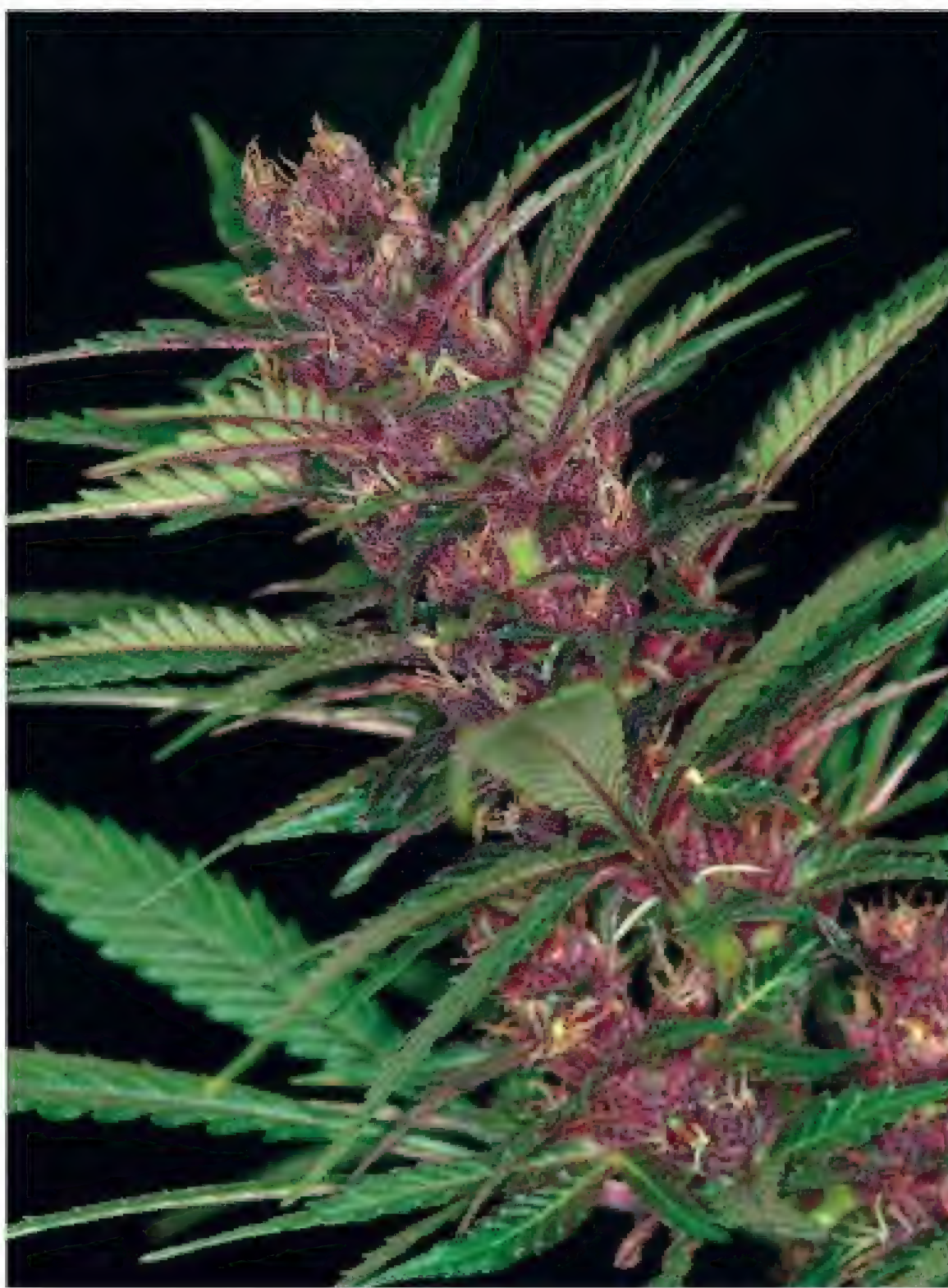
Article & photos by Jorge Cervantes

Growers: Nick and Pato

Plant count: Thousands

Medium: Organic jungle soil

This tale finds the intrepid Jorge trekking into the Colombian jungle, a.k.a. *la selva*, to visit a five-greenhouse plantation producing literally tons of marijuana. Protected by a 15-member paramilitary unit armed with AK-47s, these growers in the foothills of the Andes Mountains are assisted by locals trained to do the daily chores like pruning, pest control



and, most of all, humidity reduction.

The growers decided to plant 118 varieties from 14 of the most reputable Dutch seed companies, and the story features an amazing two-page spread of 90 of these strains meticulously dried and labeled. One interesting revelation is the growers’ use of predatory *Encarsia formosa* wasps (called *avegas* in Spanish) to combat whiteflies in the greenhouse. Jorge’s jungle journey still stands as one of the all-time-best pot-growing articles ever published.

“Jungle in the Bronx”

(June 2005)

Article & photos by Danny Danko

Grower: Papers

Plant count: 320

Medium: Pro-Mix in 3-gallon buckets

Of course I had to include one of my own articles, and since the latest and greatest, “The Indoor Acre” (Aug. ’14), is way too fresh, I decided to go back to my first big grow piece, from June 2005, called “Jungle in the Bronx.” This feature detailed a massive urban grow op in a section of the New York City borough that’s “not featured in any of the guidebooks.” The building’s rough exterior concealed a sophisticated, oversized growroom running almost two dozen 1,000-watt lights—virtually right under the noses of the NYPD.

I interviewed the grower, nicknamed “Papers” for his ability to make himself and his partners plenty of money, and he revealed some of the benefits and disadvantages of growing in the inner city. For the first time, the average Joe got a glimpse inside the kind of clandestine grow house that fueled the Sour Diesel delivery-service era of New York cannabis connoisseurship.

From top: A Purple #1 cola grown in a massive greenhouse deep in the Colombian jungle; Sensi Star top grown in the Bronx, NYC.



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"The Gold Standard"
(March 2012)

"The Gold Standard"

(March 2012)

Article & photos by Nico Escondido

Grower: Noel Manners of Camp Cool Farm

Plant count: 25 plants per land parcel

Medium: TLO (true living organic) soil

My esteemed Cultivation Department colleague illuminated an off-the-grid pot farm that opened many readers' eyes to the possibilities of sustainable marijuana production. Utilizing primarily wind and solar power, as well as composting to create a living soil that feeds the plants' roots, Camp Cool Farm offers a truly progressive example of how to grow great pot.

The farm's Prop. 215-compliant medical marijuana plants, including legendary NorCal strains such as Jah Goo, Purple Jasmine and Afghooey, are grown in massive 8' x 8' frames, providing an enormous amount of room for roots to explore and expand. Plants this big also require serious amounts of water—up to 10 gallons per day! For that purpose, Camp Cool Farm employs a system of water-holding tanks that uses gravity to move H₂O from a natural spring on the property to thirsty plants. Come harvest time, many of them reach as high as 12 to 14 feet and yield over 10 pounds of dry bud each.



"Inside the Bud Bunker"
(March 2013)

"Inside the Bud Bunker"

(March 2013)

Article & photos by Erik Biksa

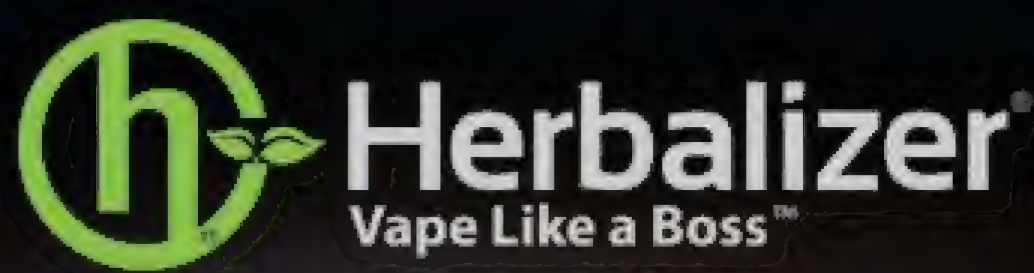
Grower: A licensed Canadian producer

Plant count: 250

Medium: Peat-based soilless mix in raised beds

Marijuana growers talk a lot about being "underground," but this garden in the Great White North—chronicled by *HT*'s Canadian correspondent, Erik Biksa—absolutely deserves the term. Surrounded by concrete on all sides, this sealed bunker produces federally licensed medical marijuana for patients throughout the country. It's a massive operation presided over, for the most part, by just one person, from the build-out to the harvest.

The bud bunker employs more than 150 1,000-watt lamps, but it also has impressive air-conditioning units (offering literally 250,000 BTUs of cooling power) that are able to keep the temperature at optimal levels for healthy growth. State-of-the-art equipment maintains the proper humidity and carbon-dioxide levels as well. Because the room is sealed, pests are not an issue—and even more importantly for patients, neither is pesticide use. 🌿



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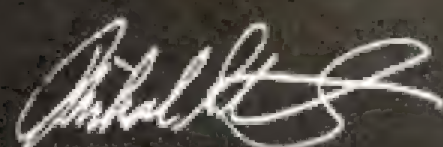
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Everyone knows, at the end of the day, there is only one "real thing".

Bottom line is ... can you or *do you really* want to risk your valuable cannabis crops and your hard-earned money on unproven claims sold on the basis of "cheap"?

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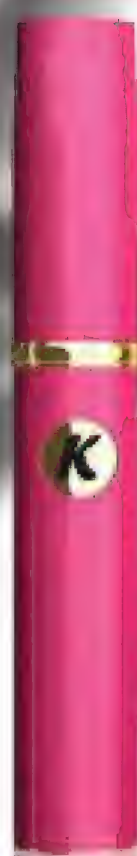
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The List: The 25 Greatest St

Rankings compiled by the *High Times* staff. Words by Nico Escondido

What better way to celebrate *High Times*' 40th anniversary than to pay homage to the best of the cannabis plant, which provided our founder, Thomas King Forçade, and so many others with the inspiration to cultivate a movement and put forth a publication dedicated to one goal for so many years.

You're probably wondering just how, exactly, we came up with The List? We do admit it's not a bad gig to have, deciding which strains are the best of all time—but still, the task did come with its challenges. Sorting through the varied histories of these strains wasn't exactly easy as the lineage, parentage and even the birthplace of some of these strains are murky at best.

So we had to rely on a few main factors, the first being each strain's influence and overall contribution to the cannabis gene pool—hence many of the old-school varieties on the list. Next, we had to consider the awards (specifically, Cannabis Cups) that each strain has won. And after that came popularity and market share, qualitative

factors that helped shape The List greatly. Lastly, we made use of our movement's greatest asset: Science. We looked at a host of quantitative characteristics, such as potency (both THC *and* CBD; see #8 for proof) as well as terpenoid profiles, which produce the flavorful aromas and tastes that we all love so much.

Hopefully, we did right by all of *High Times*' readers. But we're also pretty confident that if you were starting out on a new planet and had to take a handful of cannabis seeds along, you'd be choosing from among these 25! So here's to our Lady of Cause, and all of her beautiful children. Enjoy.



rains of All Time

25) Acapulco Gold, a.k.a. Mexican Sativa

Kicking off our list of the all-time greatest strains is a true native landrace of North America. Often referred to as Acapulco Gold, but more commonly known these days as Mexican *sativa*, it is often used in breeding projects which have led to numerous world-class strains such as Skunk #1, multiple Haze varieties and even the fabled Blueberry line (check out #11, #10 and #2). And, when grown right, Mexican *sinsemilla* (meaning “without seed”) can provide one of the best stand-alone *sativa* highs around.

24) Girl Scout Cookies

Highest lab-tested THC at a HT Cannabis Cup: 25.14% (Denver, 2013)

The GSC might be the youngest strain to earn a place on The List. She first appeared just a few years ago, circa 2011, and took the cannabis world by storm. Much controversy still surrounds this strain, however, and not just because of her name. A debate persists as to her lineage: The most commonly held belief is that she's the product of OG Kush x Cherry Pie, while others contend that it was something called “F1” (not in reference to breeding) x Durban Poison, which was then crossed to Kush. Either way, the GSC has edged out some tough competition to make her appearance here.

Girl Scout Cookies make The List at #24... Who will make the top three?



Amnesia Haze**23) Amnesia Haze**

A classic strain from the Netherlands, the Amnesia Haze was winning Cups more than a decade ago and might be considered a fixture of the Amsterdam pot scene. A *sativa*-dominant hybrid, her ancestry looks something like this: (Afghani x Hawaiian) x Laos x Jamaican. This combination gives the Amnesia Haze a sweet and spicy flavor with a very cerebral high.

22) Critical Mass, a.k.a. Critical+

This one sparked a bit of internal debate here at *High Times* as to whether she merited inclusion on The List. However, in the end she won out over some of our honorable mentions (appearing at the end of this article)—mostly due to her overwhelming popularity in Spain, which is fast becoming the new Amsterdam of Europe. Furthering her cause is her strong and flavorful high, for which a special nod to her folks, who rank at #11 and #6, is due.

Lately, pure forms of Durban have been turning up at Cup competitions, with the Poison hitting 22.43% THC in Denver '13.

21) Hindu Kush

This landrace strain is the primary reason the words “Kush” and “*indica*” have become synonymous. Originating in the Hindu Kush mountains of Afghanistan, this pure *indica* is responsible for such offspring as the Master Kush ... and she also played a role in the creation of our beloved OG Kush. Originally released by the stalwart Sensi Seeds, it's rare to see these flowers around much these days, although her family still ranks among cannabis royalty.

20) Durban Poison

Highest lab-tested THC at a HT Cannabis Cup: 22.43% (Denver, 2013)

Another true landrace, the Durban is the only strain on The List that hails from Africa. A pure *sativa*, this variety has been used in a wide range of breeding projects, as she was one of the first strains out of South Africa that exhibited none of the auto-flowering traits of *ruderalis*, which are sometimes found in wild landrace lines. Lately, pure forms of Durban have been turning up at Cup competitions, and she has largely impressed with her licorice flavor and very potent “up” high.

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COSMIC CHARLIE

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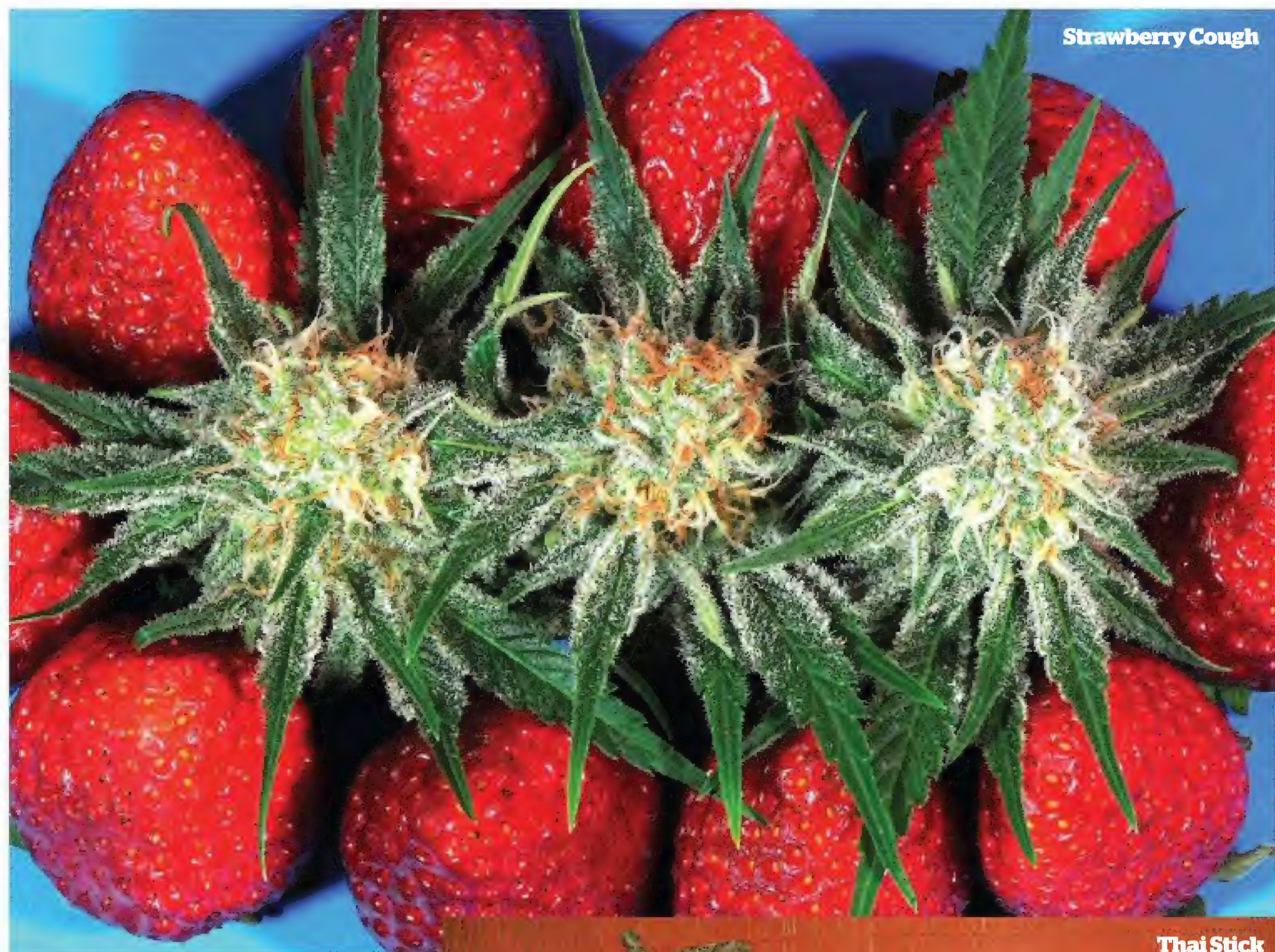
TURBO DIESEL

PINA COLLISION

PREZIDENTIAL KUSH

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19) White Widow

The White Widow was winning Cannabis Cups in Amsterdam as far back as 1995, and her actual birth date extends to nearly a decade before that. A well-balanced hybrid reportedly made by crossing a Brazilian *sativa* with an unknown *indica* from South India, she has both an *indica*-dominant and a *sativa*-dominant phenotype. Both phenos are usually thickly coated with trichomes, giving her a very white appearance (and, her name).

18) Thai Stick

Pure Thai, a landrace *sativa*, is still a favorite among cannabis connoisseurs. However, Thai *Stick* is a legendary strain with a twist—and we mean that quite literally. It's rumored that back in the 1960s, Thai Stick was pure Thai bud twisted around a stick—but reports vary as to how the buds were attached. Some say it was with hemp rope; others say with pot leaves and stems; while still others say it was stuck on with opium! The latter would certainly explain why so many old heads have long craved the Thai Stick since her disappearance in the 1980s.



17) Chem '91

Obviously, we couldn't fit *all* of our favorite Chem Dog phenos here, since there are more than a few. But the '91 is the first of the family to appear on The List, because she just might be the most flavorful of them all and has been widely used in crossbreeding projects (like the Deadhead OG) to get that sweet, Diesel-y taste that makes the mouth water and the lips pucker up. More on the Chem family when the 91's big sis makes her appearance at #5.

16) Strawberry Cough

Highest lab-tested THC at a HT Cannabis Cup: 25.28% (Seattle, 2013)

This *sativa*-dominant hybrid produces a well-balanced but very uplifting high. The progeny of the Vermont-based *indica* Strawberry Fields and a mixed-breed Haze, the Strawberry Cough is revered among connoisseurs of fine cannabis for both her exquisite flavor (think berry) and high THC. When she's grown organically—or *vegani-cally*, as some would have it—she tops the THC charts and claims Cups as she should.



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This cross of Blueberry and Haze is known for its very pleasant fruity- tangy- earthy taste, blue color, and strong and lasting, mixed mind and body high. The high starts with a sativa high and finishes around 3 hours later with a relaxing indica like muscle easing and pain killing effect. It is one of the favourites in California and in fact it is among the top ten most demanded strains in there, which gives a good measure about the quality of this jewel. Taste is described by users as sweet, tangy, lemony, and earthy. Produces big plants that grow fast and wide, and it is appropriate for commercial purposes.



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One of California's most famous cash crops has now become a global icon. HSO is proud to introduce this elite selection, branded with the classic Skunk#1 x a pure isolated Afghani. The exquisite sweet mango essence is one of the most important features of this strain. The other main feature is, it produces more than most strains. Grows vigorously and flowers quickly and profusely. Multiple bud sites allow for a huge yield, making her a queen cash cropper.



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Grand Daddy Purple



Super Lemon Haze

One of only two back-to-back Cannabis Cup Champions, the Super Lemon Haze scored her wins in Amsterdam in '08 and '09 and hit 22.64% THC in LA in '12.

15) Grand Daddy Purple

Highest lab-tested THC at a HT Cannabis Cup: 18.60% (San Francisco, 2012)

This NorCal original started the purple-bud craze that helped push several very similar (if not identical) varieties out into a marketplace saturated with Kush and Diesel flavors. Offering a sweet and fruity taste of grape, the GDP stands out in a crowd and spurred the likes of Purple Urkel, the Purps and Grape Ape. Begat from an old Mendocino purple strain, this *indica*-dominant plant was used early and widely by California patients' groups and has gone into the creation of several successful hybrid strains known for both flavor and heavy medicinal effects.

14) Cheese or Sensi Star? You decide...

We need your help on this one! Should it be Cheese or Sensi Star that gets a spot on The List? Email hteditor@hightimes.com with your vote and put "Top 25" in the subject line. The winner will be named in an upcoming Cultivation Clinic column as the Featured Strain of the Month!

13) Super Lemon Haze

Highest lab-tested THC at a HT Cannabis Cup: 22.64% (Los Angeles Cup, 2012)

One of only two back-to-back Cannabis Cup champions, the Super Lemon Haze scored her wins in Amsterdam in 2008 and 2009. One of her parents, Super Silver Haze, was the only other strain to achieve this feat, back in 1998 and 1999 (more about her at #4). The Super Lemon Haze is a true Amsterdam original, created by the breeding giant Green House Seed Company as a cross of Lemon Skunk and Super Silver Haze. The Lemon Skunk half, which is native to the US, brings an overwhelming citrus flavor to the palate. Lab testing has shown extremely high profiles of limonene and terpinolene, making this super-*sativa* both tasty and potent.



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**12) G-13**

The first (and, so far, only) known strain to be bred by the US government at this country's sole legal cannabis-research facility at the University of Mississippi, the G-13 was secretly procured and brought to Holland circa 1986, where she fast became the mother to a host of epic strains. Because of her notoriety, most G-13 hybrids clearly state the parents in their name, like G-13 Haze (Cannabis Cup winner, 2007), G-13 Hashplant or Lemon G-13. Most recently, the G-13 was crossed with a Jack Herer male to produce the newly popular XJ-13.

11) Skunk #1

One of the first and best real hybrids of the modern cannabis-breeding era, Skunk #1 is a mix of three true-breeding landrace strains: Afghani (#6), Mexican (#25) and Colombian. This well-balanced beauty is a heavy yielder, doing well both indoors and out, filling gardens with that pungent, skunky aroma. She went on to play a role in the creation of such strains as Skunkberry, Cheese, the Church, Island Sweet Skunk and Lemon Skunk, plus a couple of other choice smokes you'll see further down The List at #8 and #4.

10) Blueberry

Highest lab-tested THC at a HT Cannabis Cup: 17.45% (Seattle, 2013)

A perennial favorite with pot aficionados across the globe, the Blueberry could not be omitted from The List—and especially the top 10. Bred by DJ Short of Legends Seeds out of western Canada decades ago, the Blueberry is a powerful *indica*-dominant hybrid that has no less than eight distinct strains contributing to her lineage (yes, even some Mexican, for those of you reading the whole article)—a true benchmark of planned breeding.

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While there are many CBD-rich strains out there, the Cannatonic has exhibited some of the highest CBD values ever recorded.

One of the true all-time greats, the NL #5 was winning Cannabis Cups in Amsterdam way back in 1990. Grown and entered by the Seed Bank (one of the first such enterprises in the world for cannabis seeds), she was later released through the iconic Sensi Seeds and went on to play a role in producing generations of award-winning strains, including Super Silver Haze and Romulan. Another NorCal native, her lineage is unknown, but her taste and influence are not.

6) Afghani #1

So why we do call this keystone strain “Afghani,” as opposed to just “Afghan”? The answer reaches back into the history of this powerful *indica*, to a time when she was commonly called “Afghanica,” a reference to both her nation of origin and her classification as a truly pure *indica* variety. Today, the name has been shortened to the familiar “Afghani.”

That being said, the Afghani #1 is one of only a handful of cornerstone genotypes that can be credited with aiding in the creation of nearly every major breeding achievement of the past 30 years. The Afghani is a major contributor to strains such as Skunk #1, the original Northern Lights, Sour Diesel, Cheese, Blueberry and Mazar, just to name a few.

9) Bruce Banner #3

Highest lab-tested THC at a HT Cannabis Cup: 28.35% (Denver, 2013)

The most potent strain ever tested in the history of the *High Times* Cannabis Cup, the Bruce Banner was born and bred in Colorado and hit the 28 percent mark for THC, putting her squarely in The List’s Top 10.

The OG-dominant #3 phenotype was created in a hybridization project that crossed an OG Kush mother crossed with a Strawberry Diesel male. The #3 exhibits a nose-crackling, rocket-fuel aroma that scores high in flavor profiles—including a tall order of the much-favored terpenoid limonene. If you haven’t tried out the Bruce Banner #3 yet, put her high on *your* list.

8) Cannatonic

Highest lab-tested CBD at a HT Cannabis Cup: 19.1% (Michigan, 2011)

Yes, that’s right, Cannatonic: This lovely lady earns a spot on The List for her contributions to the world of medical cannabis. While there are many CBD-rich strains out there, the Cannatonic has exhibited some of the highest CBD values ever recorded. In fact, one of her phenotypes, the Cannatonic X, which we came across in Michigan in 2011, went to 19 percent—a true accomplishment for her breeders, and a real boon to patients and the medical community.

7) Northern Lights #5

Highest lab-tested THC at a HT Cannabis Cup: 18.71% (Denver, 2013)

5) Chem Dog

This slot isn’t just about the *indica*-heavy cannabis supermodel known as Chem Dog; it’s also a shout-out to all her sexy sister phenos (Chem ’04, Chem’s Sister and so on) that were spawned from the legendary 13 seeds found in a pound of Colorado kind bud purchased on a Grateful Dead tour back in the early ’90s. Out of those beans came a line that launched a whole new generation—and genetics revolution, of sorts—of the world’s newest and best marijuana. For her part, the Chem D has mothered more Cup-winning strains than any other in the current century, including the original OG Kush (and thus all other OG phenos), Sour Diesel, Stardawg and a whole host of Chem D crosses. Enough said.

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- Hanfparade
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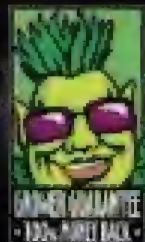
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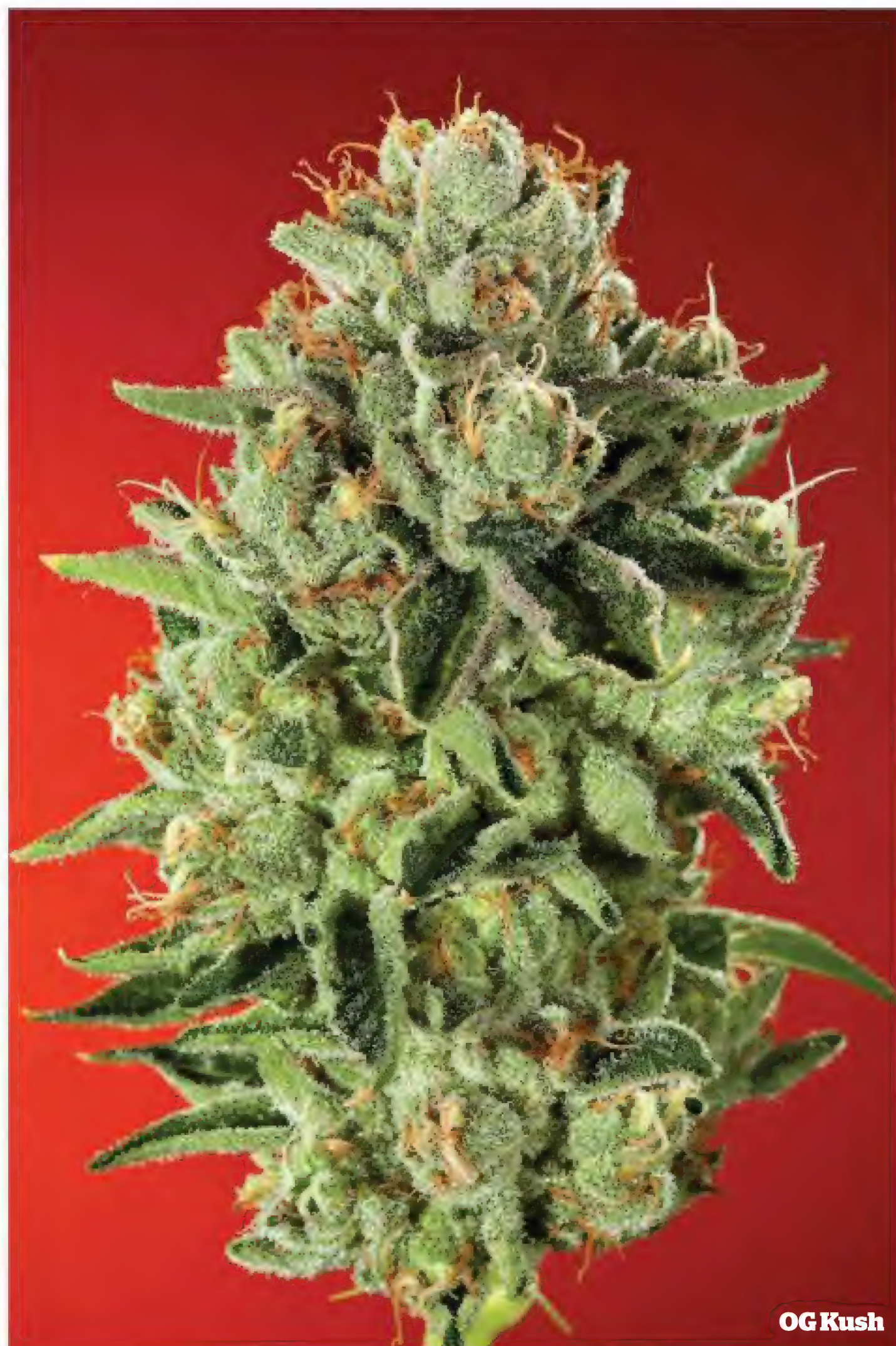
See not one, not two, not three, but FOUR different Cannabis Cup WINNERS praise Advanced Nutrients and share their favorite products in this "behind the scenes" video from Los Angeles High Times Medical Cup 2013:

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At #1? What else but OG Kush!

2) Original Haze, a.k.a. Nevil's Haze

Known to most simply as Haze, this lady also goes by the name Nevil's Haze or A5 and was created by the Haze Brothers of Northern California. In the early '80s, she was brought to Amsterdam by Dave Watson, a.k.a. Sam the Skunkman, where she was backcrossed and stabilized by Nevil, another of the legendary godfathers of breeding. A crossbreeding project of Mexican x Colombian x Thai x Indian (all landrace *sativas*), the Haze was a seminal import at the onset of the genetics trade that formed in Amsterdam during that time.

1) OG Kush

Highest lab-tested THC at a HT

Cannabis Cup: 24.04% (Denver, 2013)

So here we are at #1... and there is no denying the OG Kush her rightful throne. The Queen of Cali is one of the most popular strains ever to grace the pages of *High Times* and is hands down the flower of choice on the West Coast of the United States. Not only is she one of the strongest strains on Earth, but she is also among the most varied, exhibiting more phenotypes than almost any other strain we've seen and demonstrating that she's a true product of her environment.

When grown well, the OG Kush can take home a Cup in any competition, at any given time anywhere in the world, already claiming dozens of Cups via various OG phenos and crossbreeds. Nearly one out of every three new hybrids that come to market has the OG stamp in their genetic code, almost making the OG its own subspecies within the *Cannabis* genus. We all owe a debt of gratitude to the OG Kush for helping to usher in the next generation of excellent cannabis lines. Without a doubt, the OG is another strain that will forever be on The List.

Honorable Mentions

Undoubtedly, this was one of the toughest exercises in our 40-year history! Here are the other classic strains that were oh-so-close to making The List, but just missed the cut: Bubba Kush, Jack Herer, AK-47, Kali Mist, Lavender, Headband, Skunkberry, Purple Haze, Chocolope, Maui Wowie, Bubblegum, OG Ghost Train Haze, Hashplant, Chem '04, Big Bud and the Goo. 🌿

4) Super Silver Haze

Highest lab-tested THC at a HT

Cannabis Cup: 17.87% (Los Angeles, 2014)

It's no coincidence that the Super Silver Haze is the only other back-to-back champion in Cannabis Cup history. Both she and her daughter (Super Lemon Haze, at #18) are nearly one and the same when it comes to killer Haze strains, with the only real difference being the infusion of Lemon Skunk. Bred from superb Haze backcrosses, the SSH has all the true-breeding landrace *sativas* in her DNA, as well as a quarter NL #5 and a quarter Skunk #1. Make no mistake about it: The SSH was up for the #1 slot and might have gotten there if it wasn't for the fact that the next three entries to come are...

3) Sour Diesel

Highest lab-tested THC at a HT

Cannabis Cup: 19.50% (San Francisco, 2012)

I won't lie: If we were selfish people here at *High Times*, the Sour Diesel would—for sure—be *numero uno* on The List. However, as we explained in the opening to this article, there was more to the process of compiling these rankings than just personal (or personnel) preference. That being said, if there's a tastier bud on the planet, we haven't smoked it. When grown right, from the true East Coast cut (think *AJ*—and true connoisseurs know what we mean here), there is simply no better flavor in cannabis. Period. The Sour Diesel reigns supreme on the east side of the United States and will be on The List for eternity.

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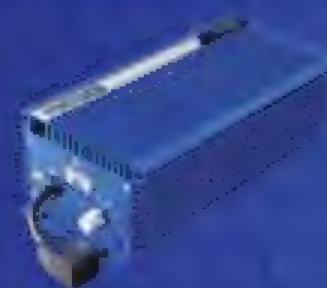
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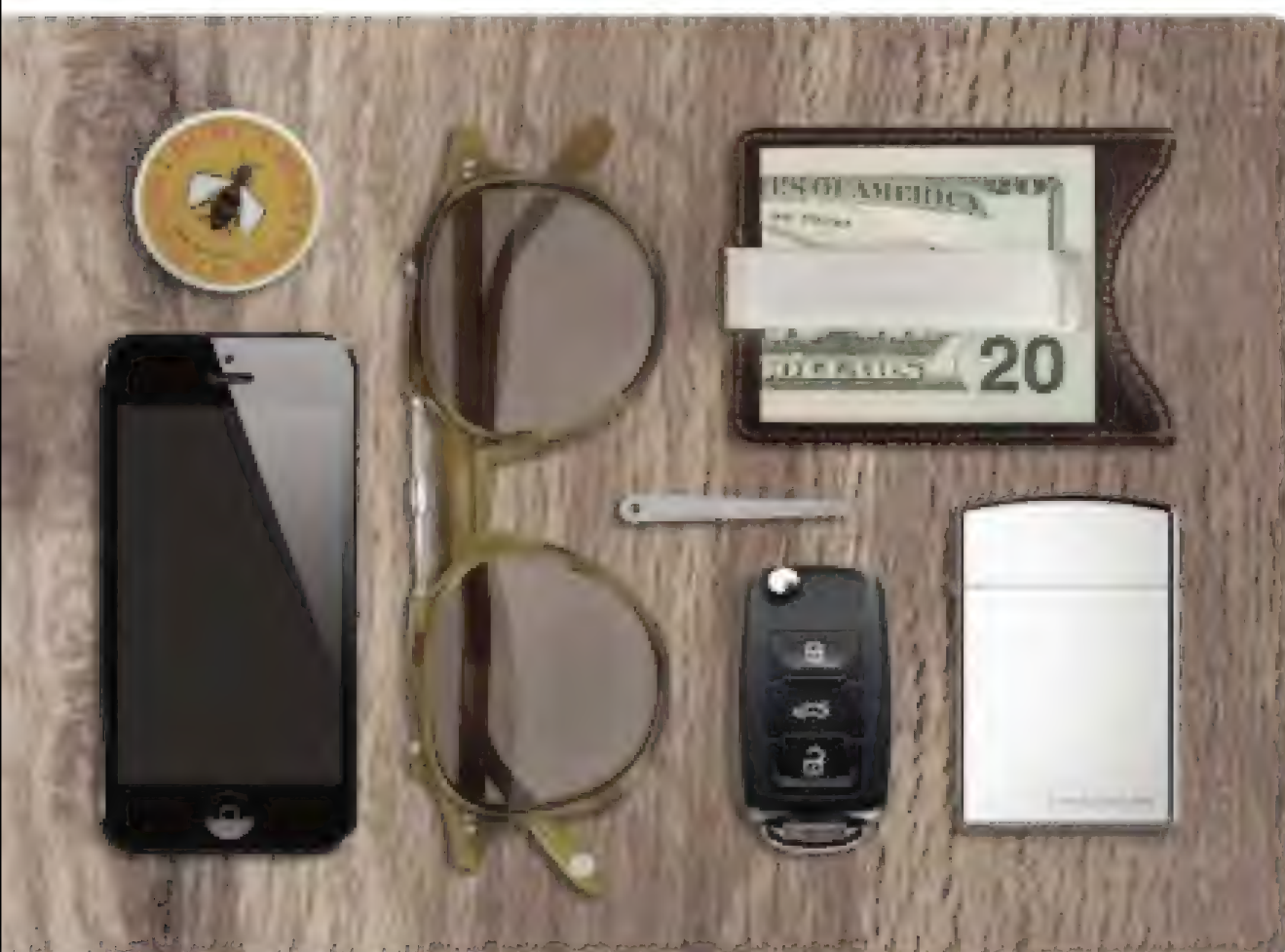
The rumors of a vaporizer 'that looks like an old lighter' began just over a year ago in early 2013; not coincidentally, it's around this same time that the Indica Vaporizer began its journey from notion to full-fledged reality.

Whether its goal of being 'the best portable vaporizer on the market' remains to be seen, the Indica surely puts every effort toward it. Borrowing from the equity of classic lighter design, the chassis alone is worthy of attention. Its polished silver exterior immediately sets it apart from competitor's playful colors and goth-clad ensembles. It's reserved approach is part of what drives the 'cool factor' of the Indica. Just holding it feels—genuine. It doesn't *have* to show off.

The look is familiar, but at its heart are some surprises. Ladies and gentlemen: the Indica Vaporizer.



If the exterior is all restraint, the internal engineering is anything but. Two rechargeable batteries power the Indica's five temperature levels of true vaporization. Pair this with a chamber that can accept up to .25g of a favorite blend—and you have a handheld unit with the fortitude and versatility that far exceeds expectations. The Indica Vaporizer proves that—in the end—investing the time and care is always worth it in the long run. ■



Style and grace / with a refined look that is as attractive as it is ergonomic, the Indica Vaporizer is completely portable and at home anywhere.

Narc Shadows

The secret confessions of a drug warrior. *By Chris Simunek*





“Darth Raider” spent 22 years exterminating marijuana fields inside the United States. A trained Special Forces soldier, he was inserted into stateside narcotics enforcement and, as it turned out, excelled at his job. Now retired and disillusioned, he contacted *High Times* to tell us the story of what it was like fighting for the other side in the War on Drugs.

Journey to the Dark Side

“Darth Raider” lives in a small community of attached cooperative homes in the southeastern part of the United States, a couple of miles from the urban sprawl one usually finds near the tentacled off-ramps of America’s interstate highway system. En route to his home, you’ll find the usual landmarks: Waffle House, Chili’s, Motel 6, Walgreens, McDonald’s, and an AM/PM selling shirts inside that read “I Wish My Girlfriend Was as Dirty as My Truck.”

Recently retired, Darth spent the last 22 years as one of this region’s most successful narcotics agents, working with a task force that specialized in hunting down marijuana fields and the people who sowed them. I can’t tell you his real name or the state he lives in. I can only tell you his story—and you’d be well within your rights to question why the editor-in-chief of *High Times* would ever decide to do that.

Darth Raider was never a cop but rather a member of Special Forces, an Army Ranger who—in order to bypass the Posse Comitatus Act, which prohibits the American military from fighting a war against the American people—was inserted into the National Guard. That Darth was a soldier, not a Quantico grad who signed up to become a narcotics agent, caused me to wonder if it was possible for a person in my position—someone who has been fighting *for* marijuana nearly as long Darth fought against it—to acknowledge that there are casualties on both sides of the Drug War. I still don’t know the answer to that. But I have interviewed dozens of victims of marijuana prohibition, so it seemed reasonable to accept his invitation to find out what the war was like on the other side.

Civil Wars

Darth showed up at my hotel at the appointed time and then drove me in his truck back to his apartment. As he escorted me into the dining room, he apologized for the mess—despite the fact that the place was immaculate. When I told him as much, he led me over to a small bookshelf that held his medals and awards and pointed to the thin layer of dust. Then he encouraged me to browse. There was a Bronze Star (awarded for acts of heroism or meritorious service in the combat zone), numerous citations and a flak helmet decorated with stickers—a Grateful Dead dancing bear and a pot leaf with a red line through it that read “Governor’s Task Force—Marijuana Eradication Program.”

I picked up a laminated plaque with a red ribbon down the left side; it was inscribed with the words “Drug Enforcement Administration, United States Department of Justice, Presents This Certificate of Appreciation to [Darth Raider] for Outstanding Contributions in the Field of Drug Law Enforcement.”

“They gave me that after I found over one million plants in a single year,” he told me.

As with most men, Darth Raider takes pride in those things he is able to do well—his Special Forces training, his sniper-level marksmanship, and his unequalled ability to spot marijuana from the pilot’s seat of a Hughes 500 helicopter. His misgivings began when he looked back at how these talents were applied in the course of 22 years of military service, and the physical and mental price that he continues to pay for it.

“I’m curious,” I said. “Obviously, we come from different sides of the ideological spectrum when it comes to the War on Drugs. Why did you call *High Times*?”

“’Cause I wanna share my story,” he replied. “I believe the government has done me wrong. They retired me early because of my injuries; they basically bottled me up like a piece of trash and tossed me aside. I was chosen by the government to fight that war—and even though I was very good at it, I never did like it.”

“We’ve always heard that the Feds were some of our most loyal subscribers.”

“Yeah, we had a subscription to *High Times*, and we all had to read it,” Darth said. “We had a stack of them in the latrine. So when we’re doing a number two, that was our readin’ material, ’cause we always tried to be one step ahead of the growers.”

The Raider family’s military history reaches all the way back to the Civil War; Darth’s ancestors fought for both the

Union and the Confederacy. On top of his refrigerator is a framed photo of his father, who fought with the First Infantry Division—the fabled Big Red One. A handsome man, Darth’s dad is shown laying on a beach in Italy after the Korean War, drinking a beer, looking at the camera, his hair the closest thing to a greasy Elvis pompadour that a soldier would have been allowed to have in the 1950s. What’s striking is the confidence in his face, as if he was looking back at America and saying, “Don’t worry about all them commies and their atom bombs—I got you covered.”

“Your family fought in the Civil War,” I noted. “Do you find it ironic that, 150 years later, you also fought a war on American soil?”

“That’s a tough question,” Darth countered, “and I don’t know how to answer it, Chris. It’s ... I kind of just ... I fell into it. I volunteered seven times to go to Desert Storm. I wanted to go out—and this is gonna sound bad, but I’ll be honest with you—I wanted to go out and be a killer. I wanted to have a gun and fight. I wanted to be what every little kid wants to be: I wanted to be an Airborne Ranger—I wanted to be jumping out of airplanes in foreign countries. And I ended up in the Drug War. It was just not what I expected.”

He led me over to several boxes of pictures and encouraged me to dig. They were in no particular order. Most were

of marijuana fields photographed from the door of a helicopter. Some were of hauls his unit had made—huge piles of uprooted cannabis plants, lying on the ground or heaped in the back of a pickup truck. Despite Darth’s insistence that he didn’t much care for what he was doing, there were several shots of him posing next to the confiscated plants and grinning. Mixed among these were personal shots of him done up like Braveheart for Halloween or wearing his dress uniform to a Broncos game—that was the day he met his hero, Peyton Manning, who Darth swears is seven feet tall, not the 6-foot-5 that everyone else says. There were Christmas scenes, ex-girlfriends, a shot of Darth with a mullet and a Metallica shirt in high school. There were also several pictures of him and his unit from their training days.

He picked one out and said, “This makes me want to cry.” The photo was of a half-dozen young recruits, posing with the M-16s they were ordered to keep by their side at all times. They were smiling, hamming it up. One by one, Darth pointed at the men and described how they died: “He had a heart attack ... he committed suicide ... he was killed in Afghanistan”

There was another picture of Darth as a young soldier holding a rabbit. He explained to me that, as part of their Special Forces training, each member of his team was given an animal that they had to

This one-time narc now considers marijuana interdiction “a waste.”



“I wanted to be an Airborne Ranger—I wanted to be jumping out of airplanes in foreign countries. And I ended up in the Drug War. It was just not what I expected.”

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care for. Darth was given a rabbit. He had to name it, cuddle with it, sleep with it, and then—after a couple weeks of getting to feel some sort of kinship with it—he had to swing it from its hind legs, bash its brains out on a rock, skin it, cook it and eat it.

The photo was housed in a plastic envelope with eight gold letters embossed on the front: “MEMORIES.”

“I wish I could erase a whole lot of stuff from my memory,” Darth said. “But I can’t.”

He explained that he had taken an oath to become an Army Ranger, so there were certain things he could not divulge. On a few occasions, he told me, he was ordered to the base in the middle of the night, loaded with the rest of his unit into a Lockheed C-130 Hercules and administered a sedative that put him to sleep. Arriving in South America, he was then given an amphetamine to bring him to.

“If we asked where we were, we were told to stand down,” he said. “Which is a

“Yes, I did. Still do.”

“What do you mean by that?”

“It just jumps out at me. I can be half-asleep in the aircraft and it’s like Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer pops up.”

“How did you come to it?”

“I started off as a mechanic in 1990. I had to do maintenance on a helicopter, so the pilot picked me up and said, ‘Why don’t you just fly with me today?’—and I found dope all day long.”

“What is it that you looked for?”

“The texture. The color really isn’t ... I’ve seen plants that look blue, I’ve seen ‘em yellow, and so I always went for the texture of the leaves.”

“What’s the best hiding spot you ever saw?”

“The end of a runway at an airport—because when an aircraft is taking off, they’re not lookin’ down, they’re lookin’ at other aircraft and they’re focusin’ on the ascent and, um ... so the best place to grow dope is around a small airport at the end of the runways. You can’t see it.”

“You’ve told me that you didn’t like being part of the Drug War, you didn’t respect it, but what do you think now? And I’m not talking about when you busted a cartel garden or were fighting against organized crime—you also busted a lot of gardens that were just regular people growing marijuana ”

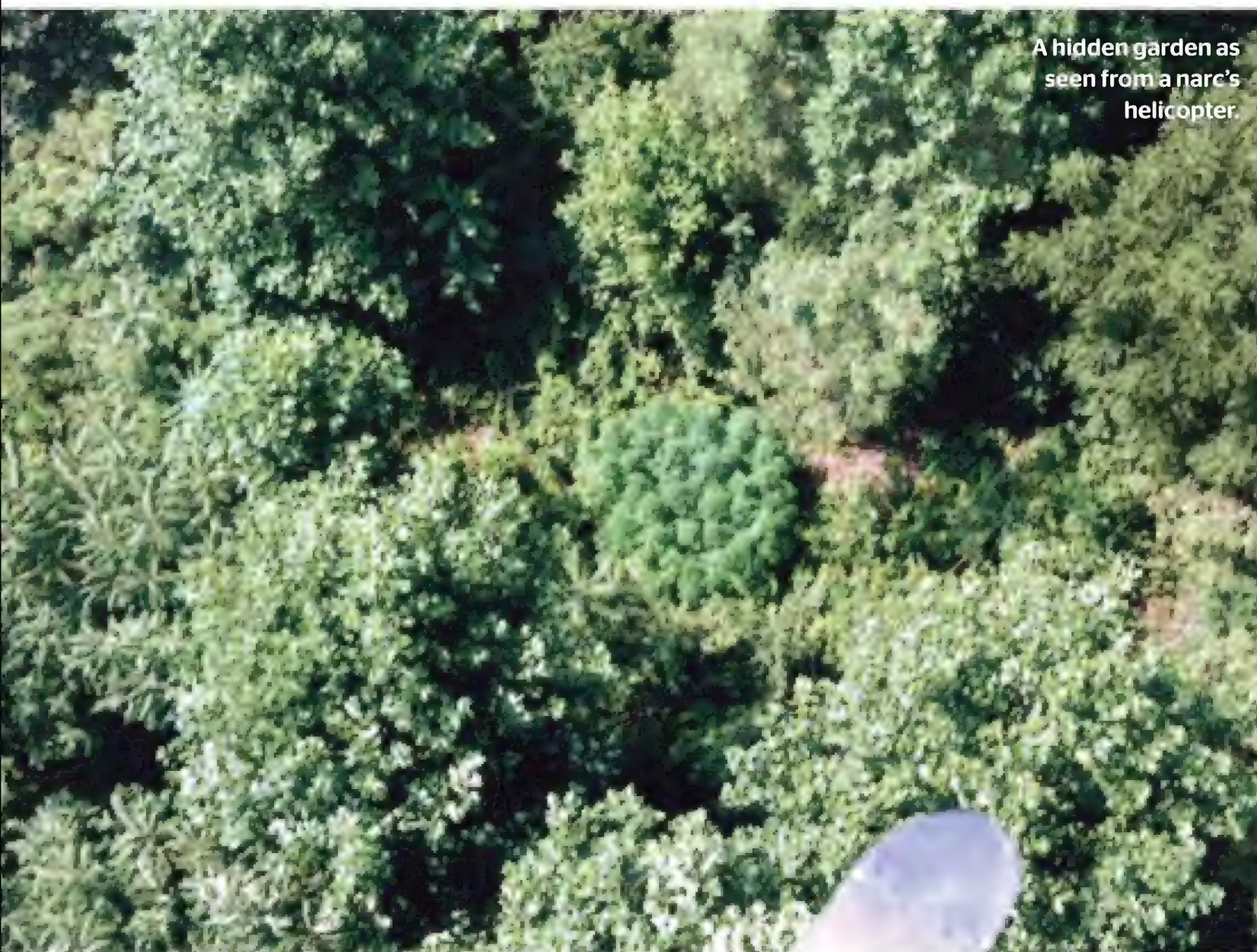
“Yes ... yes, I did,” Darth said.

“People probably got their houses taken away from them, people probably got separated from their children because of the work you were doing. Do you feel sorry?”

“To a degree, I do. But one thing I want you to put in the article is that, when you take that oath, when you raise your hand and put it on the Bible, it’s not a democracy anymore—it’s a dictatorship. I had no choice. If I’d chosen not to do what I was ordered to do, I could go to Fort Leavenworth.

“I absolutely have no problem with marijuana,” Darth continued. “I think it’s a lot safer than alcohol, and there’s a small part of me that feels guilty for huntin’ it so hard—because it was always a competition. There were usually six aircraft in the air at the same time, so it was ‘Whose is bigger than whose?’ It was a competition, and I can promise you, I’ve never been beat when I was in that field. I don’t like to lose, and so I think I worked a little bit harder than the rest.”

“Let me ask you this,” I said. “You’re a soldier at the highest degree, special ops, a trained killer, trained to defend this country. What do you think about the fact that the government *continued on page 136*



A hidden garden as seen from a narc's helicopter.

“I absolutely have no problem with marijuana,” Darth continued. “I think it’s a lot safer than alcohol, and there’s a small part of me that feels guilty for huntin’ it so hard.”

Special Ops

Darth doesn’t like to be interviewed. We spent a few days together, going out to eat, driving around listening to Five-Finger Death Punch, drinking at the local Hooters. He was happy to discuss his life as a narc, or shoot the breeze about football, guns, aircraft, off-roading, hot-rodding or women, but anytime I turned on my digital voice recorder, he grew uncomfortable. He was aware of the power that a taped confession can have over a person. One night, while were hanging out at his dining-room table, I asked if he was ever sent abroad as part of his service, and he requested that I turn the recorder off.

fancy way of saying, ‘Shut up.’”

One time (he thinks it was Peru), he was sent to train soldiers in narcotics interdiction, and another time (he’s pretty sure it was Colombia), his unit was used as “force enhancement” to take down a drug lord at his mansion. For that mission, his unit painted their faces white, with black tear-drops on their cheeks. The goal was maximum intimidation. The drug lord gave up without a struggle; then Darth and his men were loaded onto the plane, given another sedative and flown back to America.

I turned the recorder back on.

“You told me that you had a gift for spotting marijuana.”

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INTERVIEW BY
RICK CUSICK
PHOTOS BY DAN SKYE

LESTER GRINSPOON

THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW



IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO IMAGINE MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION WITHOUT LESTER GRINSPOON. AN APOCRYPHAL VERSION OF HIS ORIGIN STORY MAINTAINS THAT DURING THE 1960s DR GRINSPOON, AN ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AT HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL, WAS CONCERNED THAT HIS FRIEND, ASTRONOMER CARL SAGAN, WAS SMOKING TOO MUCH POT. “CARL, THAT CAN’T BE GOOD FOR YOU,” THE DOCTOR ASSERTED.

“LESTER,” SAGAN REPLIED, ARCHING A BUSHY BLACK BROW, “I THINK YOU SHOULD RECONSIDER.”

BUT THAT’S NOT WHAT HAPPENED.

IN 1967, BY HIS OWN ASSESSMENT, GRINSPOON WAS “IN AN IVORY TOWER LOOKING OUT THE WINDOW, AND I WAS FASCINATED BY THE 1960s,” HE TOLD *HIGH TIMES*. “BUT MARIJUANA WAS AN UNCOMFORTABLE PART. I THOUGHT THOSE YOUNG PEOPLE WERE BEHAVING IRRESPONSIBLY.”

LESTER AND CARL DID AGREE THAT THERE WAS A SURPRISING LACK

OF EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE ON THE SUBJECT, AND SO WHILE WAITING FOR HIS CO-AUTHORS TO FINISH A BOOK ON SCHIZOPHRENIA, LESTER DECIDED TO GO TO THE HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL LIBRARY AND DO THE HEAVY LIFTING. HE EXPECTED TO WRITE THE PEER-REVIEWED PAPER NEEDED TO PROVE THE PERILS OF MARIJUANA. “INSTEAD,” HE ACKNOWLEDGED, “I FOUND OUT I HAD BEEN BRAINWASHED.”

WITH THE PUBLICATION OF *MARIJUANA RECONSIDERED* (HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESS, 1971) DR. LESTER GRINSPOON BECAME THE FIRST SCHOLAR AFFILIATED WITH A MAJOR INSTITUTION TO PUBLICLY CHALLENGE THE PREVAILING VIEW THAT CANNABIS IS A DANGEROUS DRUG. BEFORE GRINSPOON, WE WERE ALL A BUNCH OF STONERS; AFTER GRINSPOON WE BECAME PATIENTS, PEOPLE, AND CITIZENS WITH RIGHTS. ON THE OCCASION OF OUR 40TH ANNIVERSARY, *HIGH TIMES* CAUGHT UP WITH THE GOOD DOCTOR IN HIS HOMETOWN OF AUBURNDALE, MA, ONE WEEK BEFORE HIS 86TH BIRTHDAY.

You've been involved since the beginning in all of this, haven't you—44, 45 years?

Yeah, since '67. What is that? From 1967, that leaves us 33 years and 14 ... that makes it 47 years.

Wow!

That's almost half a century! [Laughs heartily] Wow! What perseverance, Lester!

You must take a great deal of satisfaction from current developments.

Oh, I do! You know, I predicted in the last chapter of *Marihuana Reconsidered* that prohibition would be gone in 10 years. And Carl Sagan, who read the manuscript, said, "Lester, that's an excellent book, but you made one big mistake."

"What's that, Carl?"

"You said it would take 10 years to get rid of prohibition."

So I asked him how long *he* thought it would take. He said, "Two years ... at the outside."

So at one thing, anyway, I was more prescient than Carl Sagan.

Yeah—you were only off by 37 years!

Yeah! Yeah! [Laughing] But along came the '70s, and then the '80s and, you know, the '90s start to go by, and I think, "Jesus, this is ridiculous! This is not going to happen in my lifetime. I'll stop living while this thing keeps holding on." But I think what we're seeing right now is Western culture trying to figure out an accommodation for this new kid on the block. The cat will never be put back in the bag. It's nice that we have—it's going to be 23 states soon experimenting with it medically, and now we even have two states that are legalized. So you can say it's just a matter of time, but I think one can also say it's happening now! But it's going to take a lot of effort and work to complete it and find those accommodations so people can feel comfortable with this.



"It's going to be a while before medicine understands how extraordinarily useful this substance is—it's so benign and so versatile in dealing with any number of symptoms and syndromes."

In *Marihuana Reconsidered*, there is a chapter on the history of cannabis as a medicine, basically recovering information that had been suppressed and restoring it to the pool of common knowledge.

Yes. That's right.

Did you have any inkling of the amazing field that medical marijuana would become?

Yes, I did, because I found about 100 papers between the time O'Shaughnessy came back from India and published his first paper—I think it was something like 1848—and the turn of the century. And, you know, some of those papers were pretty good. Some of these guys had pretty good ideas, but they were hobbled by the fact that nobody knew you could smoke it. It wasn't soluble in water, so they put it in alcohol, and you had proprietary names like Tilden's Solution, which was a common one in this country, and the doctor would say, "Take four minims

every six hours or so."

Well, these guys in the 19th century had no bioassays; there was no way to tell how potent these substances were. One gets the impression that they decided to err on the high side—pardon the pun—because, taken orally, it would take one and a half to two hours to get relief. If a patient had *otitis media* [a middle ear infection common in the 19th century], which was so painful, and you have to wait that long, the doctor wanted to make sure that when the effect does come on, it's really going to cut that pain. For many conditions, the analgesic effect of cannabis doesn't make the pain go away, but it puts it into the background.

Medical marijuana has now grown into an incredibly broad industry.

It has. And that's why I think it's important to start using the term "cannabinopathic medicine."

Could you explain the concept?

Go back to the original osteopathy: That was the manipulation of bones. But now there are schools of osteopathy that have adopted the medical curriculum. For example, I have a friend whose wife couldn't get into medical school, but she did get into one of the top schools of osteopathic medicine. She got her license, and now she's doing her graduate training to become a neurologist; she wants to be board-certified in neurology. So osteopathy was absorbed by allopathic [Western] medicine, and I believe ultimately this is going to happen with cannabis.

Why?

Because cannabinopathic medicine is moving so fast, and allopathic medicine is just sitting there.

I recently saw a survey conducted by one of the leading Harvard Medical School hospitals. What percentage of physicians would you say were willing to write the necessary letter or document for their patients to get cannabis from dispensaries?

Fifteen percent?

7.7 percent. [Laughs] It's so outrageous. In 1995, I published a piece in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* urging doctors to start looking into this as a medicine and to organize CME [continuing medical education] courses, because this is coming down the pike. It didn't take, but the editor who brought me in was fired—there were other reasons as well, but marijuana was the kiss of death.

So it's going to be a while before medicine understands how extraordinarily useful this substance is—it's so benign and so versatile in dealing with any number of symptoms and syndromes. This is going to grow and grow, but the drug companies aren't going to do the pioneering. They may come up with things like finding the precise inverse agonist

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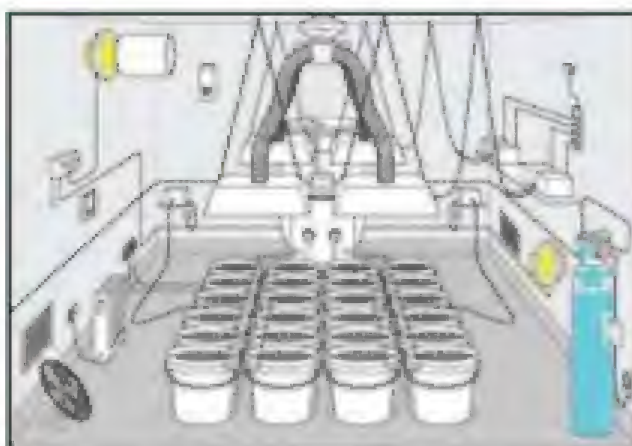
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to the munchies effect to create an appetite suppressant—I think something like that *is* possible—but a lot of the real developments will continue to come from what I call cannabinopathic medicine.

Is your concept of cannabinopathic medicine in tune with your previous idea of pharmaceuticalization?

Yes.

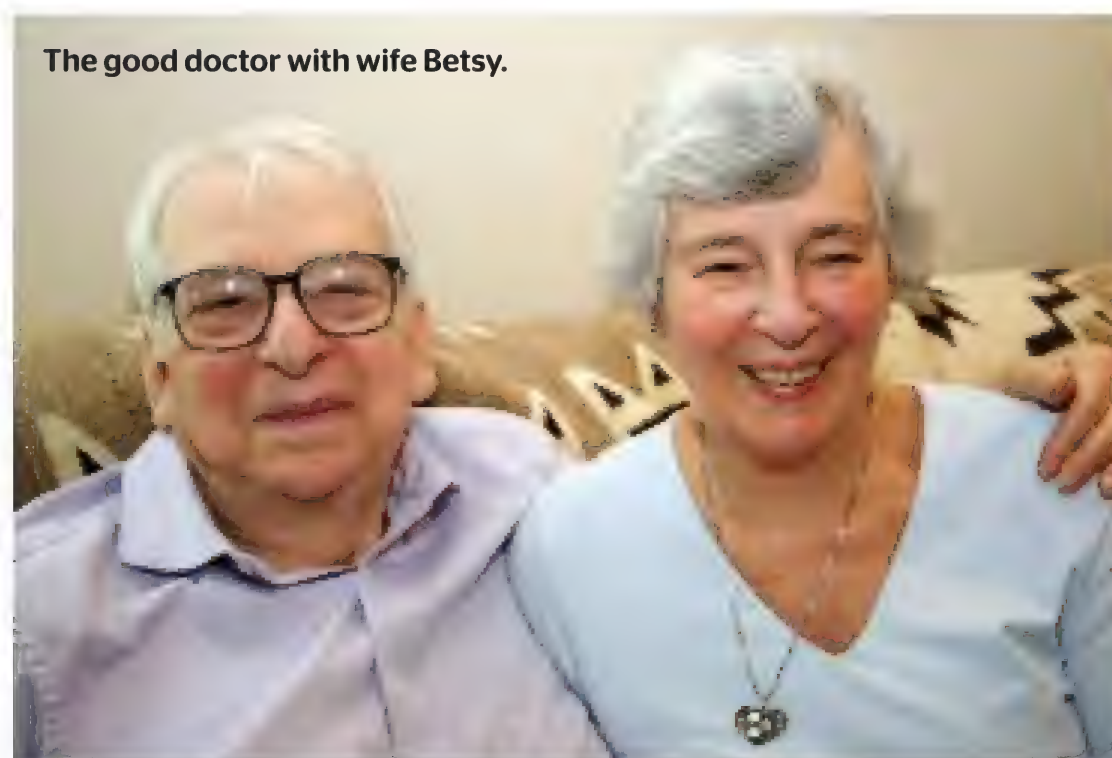
How are those two concepts related?

Well, they're related because the drug companies can't really pharmaceuticalize it. The pharmaceuticalization of marijuana is the attempt by Big Pharma to displace marijuana as a medicine, and the only company that has had some success is GW Pharmaceuticals [in England]. But the way they've done it is that [the founder of GW Pharmaceuticals] went to the Home Secretary and said, in effect: "Like me, you know it's a good medicine, but like me, you're afraid of the two dangerous aspects of it: a person gets high and his lungs are at risk."

Now these claims are not accurate but that's what GW's success is based on. They've been producing liquid marijuana—that's what Sativex is. That's the kind of thing they're good at, but they haven't done anything that we haven't done with the herb.

Look at Dravet's Syndrome [a catastrophic form of childhood epilepsy that is substantially mitigated by medical marijuana]. Look at what a difference cannabis is making to these children and their parents. That was discovered by cannabinopathic medicine, not allopathic medicine. And what a boon that is! And, furthermore, the results for the first big double-blind studies on Sativex for multiple sclerosis were recently announced. Everybody's talking about it. Now, where did they get the idea to use Sativex on multiple sclerosis so they could be sure their study would be

successful? They got that idea from cannabinopathic medicine—from people like myself, and many others like Tod Mikiyura. We knew a long time ago that this was useful for multiple sclerosis, and we were writing about it. And they're going to test other disorders that have been discovered by cannabinopathic medicine to be sensitive to cannabis. They're not going to try it on gout or something that nobody's ever had success with; they're not just going to pull things out of a hat



The good doctor with wife Betsy.

"The problem with medical marijuana and most doctors' reluctance to recommend it will be solved with the end of prohibition which is well on its way."

They're going to use the anecdotal evidence that comes out of the cannabinopathic arena.

Exactly. We have a mountain of anecdotal evidence—I'll trade that against any double-blind study in the world. We have so much of it. We *know* cannabis is safe—there's no more need to do a double-blind study with it than there was with aspirin or with penicillin. Those drugs were grandfathered into the Controlled Substances Act. You couldn't even get *aspirin* approved right now ... you couldn't get the money that's needed because the patent has expired.

There are going to be other developments like this, and I think that allopathic medicine is holding back and missing out

on something. But that's okay with me, as long as we continue with these developments.

So what does the endgame look like?

Well, I'm excited that our movement is making this kind of progress, but I think ultimately it's going to be left to the states. I think the federal government will say they'll stop criminalizing people, they'll get out of that business—but, like alcohol, they'll leave it to the states. The prob-

about?" But that's the way it's going to be seen historically—as one of those great deviations where people believed something that was far from the truth, and it was costly to them.

You were denied a well-deserved full professorship at Harvard Medical School—twice—no doubt because of your advocacy for marijuana-law reform. I once asked you if it was worth it. You said, "You can measure a doctor's career by how many accolades he's gathered and how far he's advanced in his career—that's one thing. But if you define a doctor's career by how much pain and suffering he's relieved"

Yes, I did say that. It was my solace, as everybody at Harvard thought I was a crank. Still do.

How so?

On the one hand, I did some things that Harvard Medical School appreciated, like inventing the *Harvard Mental Health Letter*. They made millions of dollars on that, and they appreciated the book dividends that I gave and so forth. But mostly, I think, they saw me as off on some toot, as off the beaten track and I was isolated at Harvard. Part of it was my own doing, because they wanted to know if I would do more work like my seven-year study on schizophrenia, or would I do more work like *Marihuana Reconsidered*? And I was so pissed that, just off the top of my head, I said: "I'm an intellectual will-o'-the-wisp, so I can't answer that question."

***Marihuana Reconsidered* has prevailed. You've prevailed. Your perseverance paid off.**

[Pausing] Right.

That didn't have to happen.

Some people say it was stupid. [Laughing] But other people admire it. [Laughing harder].

I guess it depends on your definition of a doctor. 🌿

Read more with Dr. Lester Grinspoon at hightimes.com.

lem with medical marijuana and most doctors' reluctance to recommend it will be solved with the end of prohibition which is well on its way.

We're in a strange interim right now—post-prohibition but pre-legalization.

In the middle of the 21st century—or maybe it'll take longer—someone will write up this story along the lines of Charles Mackay's classic book *Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds*. You know—how did we ever get into this situation for more than 75 years? This is really an amazing phenomenon. It can't be seen as such now, because we're not at a point where everybody would agree: "What's all the fuss

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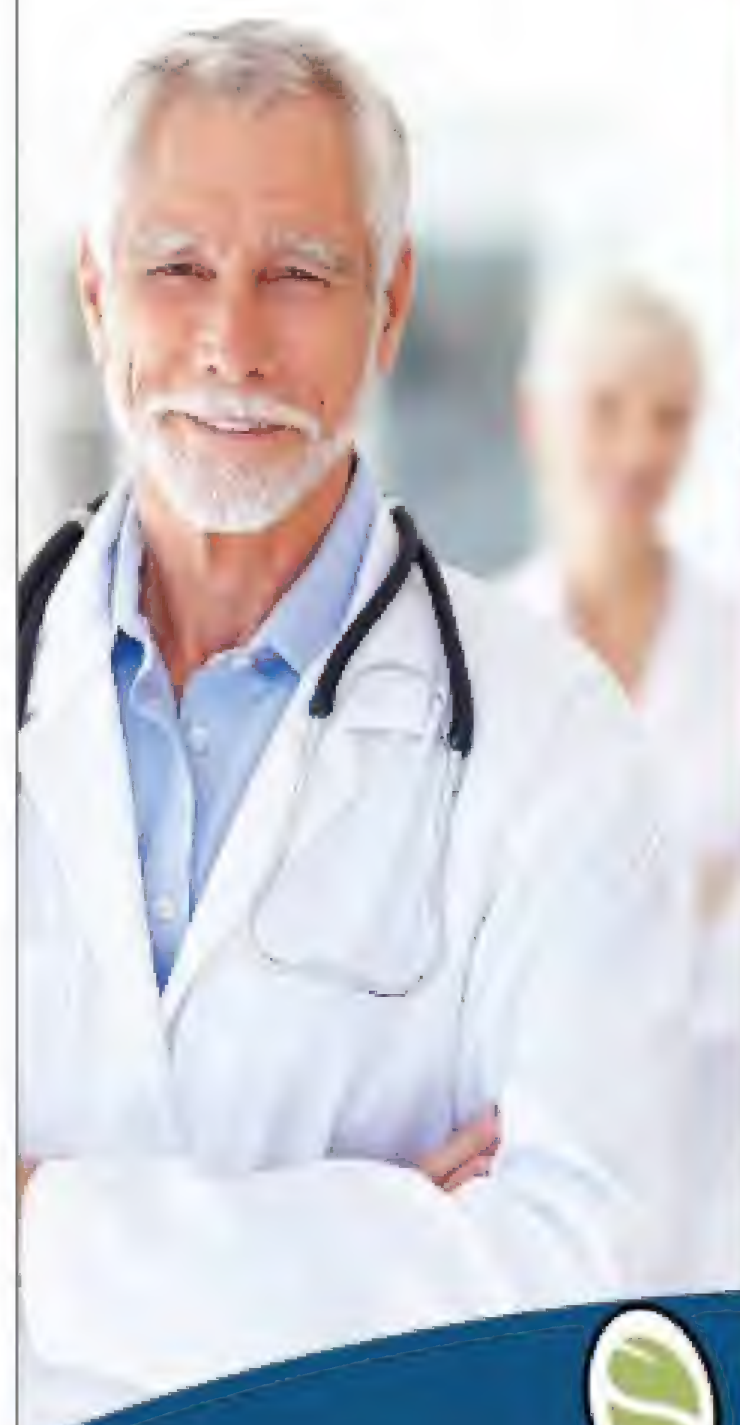
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Nor Cal Highs

At the end of June, the High Times Medical Cannabis Cup rolled into Sonoma County once again to stoke the engine of California's cannabis industry.

By Dan Skye



The hordes were in high spirits.

Our right to control our own bodies is the foundation of the battle to legalize cannabis. Prohibition, whether aimed at alcohol or cannabis, subverts this basic right.

Our right to oversee our own health should never be circumscribed by legislation either. Volumes of evidence now prove that cannabis can improve one's overall health and well-being—something that can never be claimed of booze.

But the fundamental right that prohibition tramples is spelled out in Article 21 of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights: "The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government"—something our own government seems to have forgotten.

In 1996, California voters passed Proposition 215, making it the first state to legalize medical marijuana. But the Feds moved quickly to quash the law.

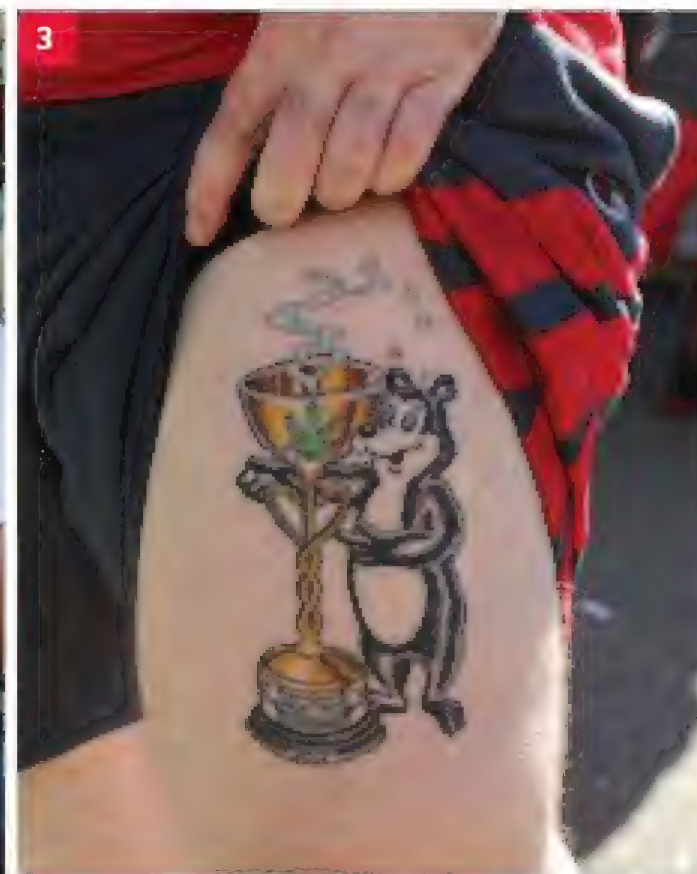
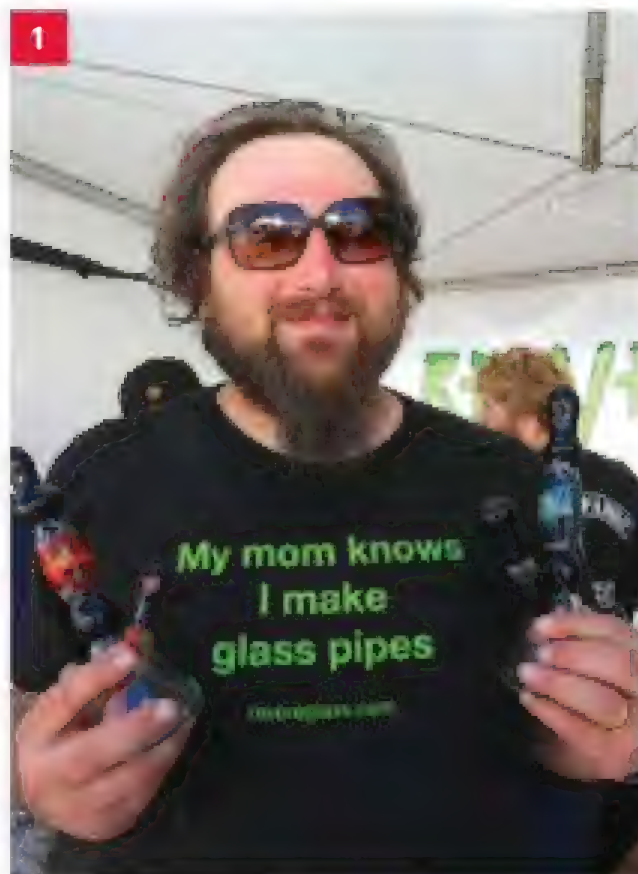
On Dec. 31 of that year, Drug Czar Barry McCaffrey and Attorney General Janet Reno called Prop. 215 a "hoax initiative" and proclaimed that it "sent the wrong message." In their wisdom, McCaffrey and Reno insisted that California voters had been misled and that both patients and doctors would be subject to prosecution and sanction. So much for the "will of the people."

But our demonstration of will has only grown stronger in the past 18 years. Twenty-three states now have medical marijuana laws on the books. Two of these states have also passed adult recreational-use laws, with more contemplating the idea. Over half the country currently believes marijuana should be made legal, while medical pot's favorability now exceeds 75 percent.

That's why it wasn't surprising when thousands turned out for the fifth High Times Medical Cannabis Cup in the San Francisco Bay Area.



Medi Brothers won two Cannabis Cups.



1 Glass artist Dustin Revere created the Lifetime Achievement Awards. **2** Oil Slick provided the necessary accessories for the “Dab Generation.” **3** A devoted fan has the Cup under his skin. **4** Cloud Penz grabbed the prize for Best Booth. Their pens were nice, too. **5** Gleaming jars of California buds enticed Cup-goers.

“The cold, hard truth is that there’s no putting the cat back into the prohibitionist bag.”

A scientist with a sense of humor once remarked that “under controlled conditions of light, temperature, humidity and nutrition, the organism will do as it damn well pleases.” That pretty much describes the experience of the Cannabis Cup, held this year at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds in Santa Rosa. Hundreds of Golden State cannabis businesses set up shop in the hot June sun to greet their target audience. Temperatures were in the 90s, not a cloud was visible, the humidity was nonexistent—and as far as nutrition was concerned, for both body *and* soul, cannabis had it covered. Morsels of cannabis deliciousness were liberally offered by companies producing edibles. Concentrates were ubiquitous and free for sampling, and the best buds of Cali were showcased by medical dispensaries in gleaming glass jars.



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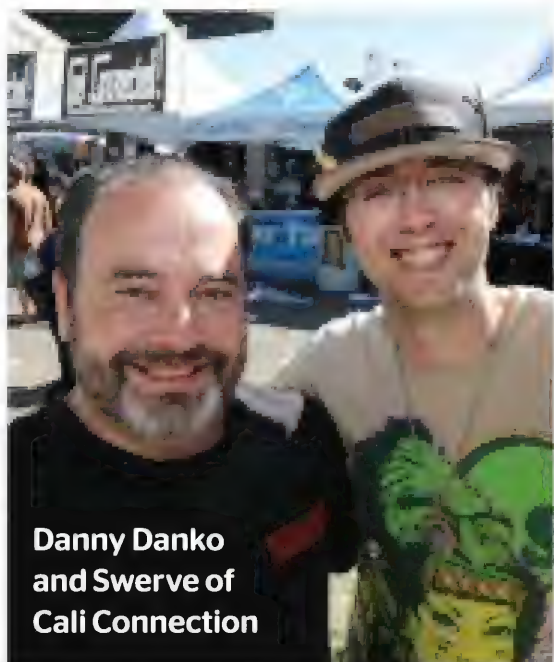
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stage.

The result? Hordes of high and happy organisms doing as they damn well pleased, asserting their collective will and enjoying the hell out of themselves!

The cold, hard truth is that there's no putting the cat back into the prohibitionist bag. Marijuana is seeping into the mainstream marketplace. Those attending the Cup represented an extraordinarily wide-ranging demographic—young, elderly, black, white, Hispanic, Asian. There's no such thing as a "typical" pot user any more. Everyone's interested in the plant's therapeutic powers *and* its economic possibilities—which is why a seminar offering tips on opening a pot-themed business was packed. So, too, was the seminar focusing on edibles. But, as always, *HT* senior cultivation editor Danny Danko's panel of cultivation experts drew the biggest crowd. After all, there is no cannabis industry without supply and demand—and there's a lot of demand to satisfy.

On Saturday night, the jam band moe. rocked a stoner throng. Call them rock, prog, psych, whatever—the simple fact is that this band can play! They're adventurous, improvisational and just plain kick-ass—and provided an exhilarating end to Saturday at the Cup.

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At the Sunday night awards show, a wide array of honorees was called to the stage to accept their Cups. The only repeat first-place winners were Medi Brothers: Partnered with MTG Seeds, they took the High

CBD Award (edibles category) for their Medi-Chew High CBD, then grabbed a second Cup for Best Non-Solvent Hash. Otherwise, the awards were spread throughout the field of entrants.

Keeping Score

High Times partners up with Steep Hill Halent labs to take our cannabis-rating system to the next level.

Let's face it: When it comes to cannabis, our country has changed for the better. And as it continues to change, our biggest ally in the fight for legalization is science. That's why *High Times* recently made the decision to embrace the science and technology at our disposal and utilize it in the *High Times* Scorebook, the world's foremost cannabis-rating system.

The algorithm we use combines both qualitative scoring from our judges with quantitative scoring from our labs. Before this Medical Cannabis Cup, we employed different local labs for each event. But this practice created inconsistencies within the data, which can result in incomplete or inaccurate data sets.

We wanted to solve this problem. That's why, with this event, *High Times* announced our new official partnership with Steep Hill Halent, America's largest cannabis-research facility. With labs in four of our Cannabis Cup host cities (Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle and Denver—and more on the way!), Steep Hill Halent is well equipped to meet the Cup's rapidly evolving needs. Capable of testing strains using both gas chromatography (GC) and high-pressure liquid chromatography (HPLC), the company offers the best available standards and calibration techniques for pinpoint accuracy.

Moving forward, Steep Hill Halent will use its HPLC technology to provide not only potency results for key cannabinoids like THC and CBD, but also complete terpenoid profiles that will soon be worked into the Scorebook algorithm. Additionally, it will use gas chromatography to help determine residual solvents in the concentrate entries, making these products safer for use—another factor that will also be incorporated into the scoring.

These newest developments will put our Cup events on the cutting edge of cannabis analysis, ensuring that *High Times* remains the most trusted name when it comes to cannabis ratings and competitions. We're proud to have Steep Hill Halent on board and look forward to our association for many years to come. Our joint goal is to grow *HT's* Cup competitions and fuel the cannabis movement by using the most advanced science and state-of-the-art technology to set a new gold standard for the industry. *Nico Escondido*

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Valerie and Mike Corral, the founders of WAMM, California's oldest and most storied med-pot collective, received the Lester Grinspoon Lifetime Achievement Award for their incomparable work with severely ill patients and for helping to spearhead Prop. 215. As Valerie has said often: "Marijuana's true value lies in its capacity to heal."

Change, like healing, takes time. Let's try not to waste any more of it. ✨



Mike and Valerie Corral were honored for a lifetime of compassionate care.

Cannabis Cup Results

Best Booth

1st Place: Vader Extracts
2nd Place: Cloud Penz
3rd Place: Nexus Glass

Best Product

1st Place: Cloud Penz
2nd Place: Oil Slick
3rd Place: Cloud V

Best Glass

1st Place: Hitman Glass and Mr. Gray Torch
2nd Place: Nexus Glass
3rd Place: Pulse Glass

Best Medical Topical

Fire & Ice - Eden's Elixirs

Best Edibles

1st Place: Artisanal Cannabis Macarons from Madame Munchie
2nd Place: Hazelnug & Grub from Organicares Collective
3rd Place: Jambo from Jambo Direct

High CBD Award

Flowers: Great White from Alpha Medic
Edibles: Medi-Chew High CBD from Medi Brothers and MTG Seeds
Concentrates: Charlotte's Web from PEACE

(Plant Essentials and Cannabis Extracts)

Best Non-Solvent Hash

1st Place: Kottonmouth Kush x Strawberry Cough Ice-Water Hash from Medi Brothers
2nd Place: HGH Extractions Goji OG Solventless from Delta Health Center
3rd Place: BAMF Private Reserve Cookies from BAMF Extractions

Best Concentrate

1st Place: Hell Raiser OG from TLC Collective/Gold Coast Extracts
2nd Place: XJ-13 Lemon-head from Alternative Herbal Health Services/Prime Extractions
3rd Place: J-1 from Nectar's

Best Sativa

1st Place: Cracker Jack from Santa Cruz Mountain Naturals

2nd Place: Silver Haze from MedMar Healing Center
3rd Place: Tangerine Haze from Heirloom Genetics

Best Indica

1st Place: Chem Scout from IC Collective
2nd Place: Paris OG from California Naturals
3rd Place: XXX OG Kush from Life Is Good Healing

Best Hybrid

1st Place: Thin Mint Cookies from Gold Coast Collection
2nd Place: Kush Company OG Kush from Wellness Earth Energy Dispensary (WEED), Studio City
3rd Place: Deathstar from San Jose Patients Group



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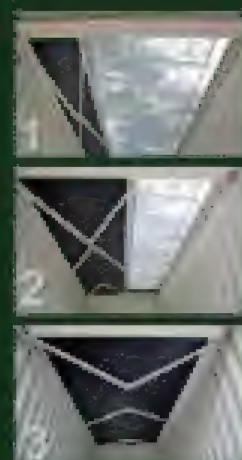
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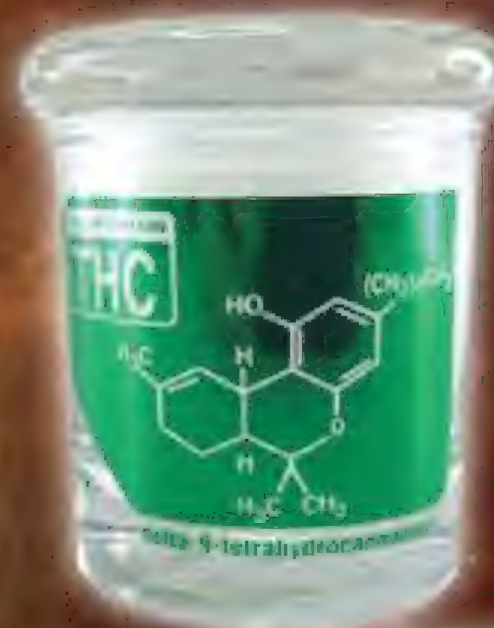
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Expert Grow Advice

For our 40th anniversary issue, I've selected 10 of the most-asked questions in the four years that I've had the pleasure of writing this column for *High Times*.



Send your cannabis cultivation questions to [@deardanko](#) or [deardanko@hightimes.com](#).



Male pre-flowers look like pointed spikes.

SUBJECT: **Plant Sex**

FROM: **Russian Kush**

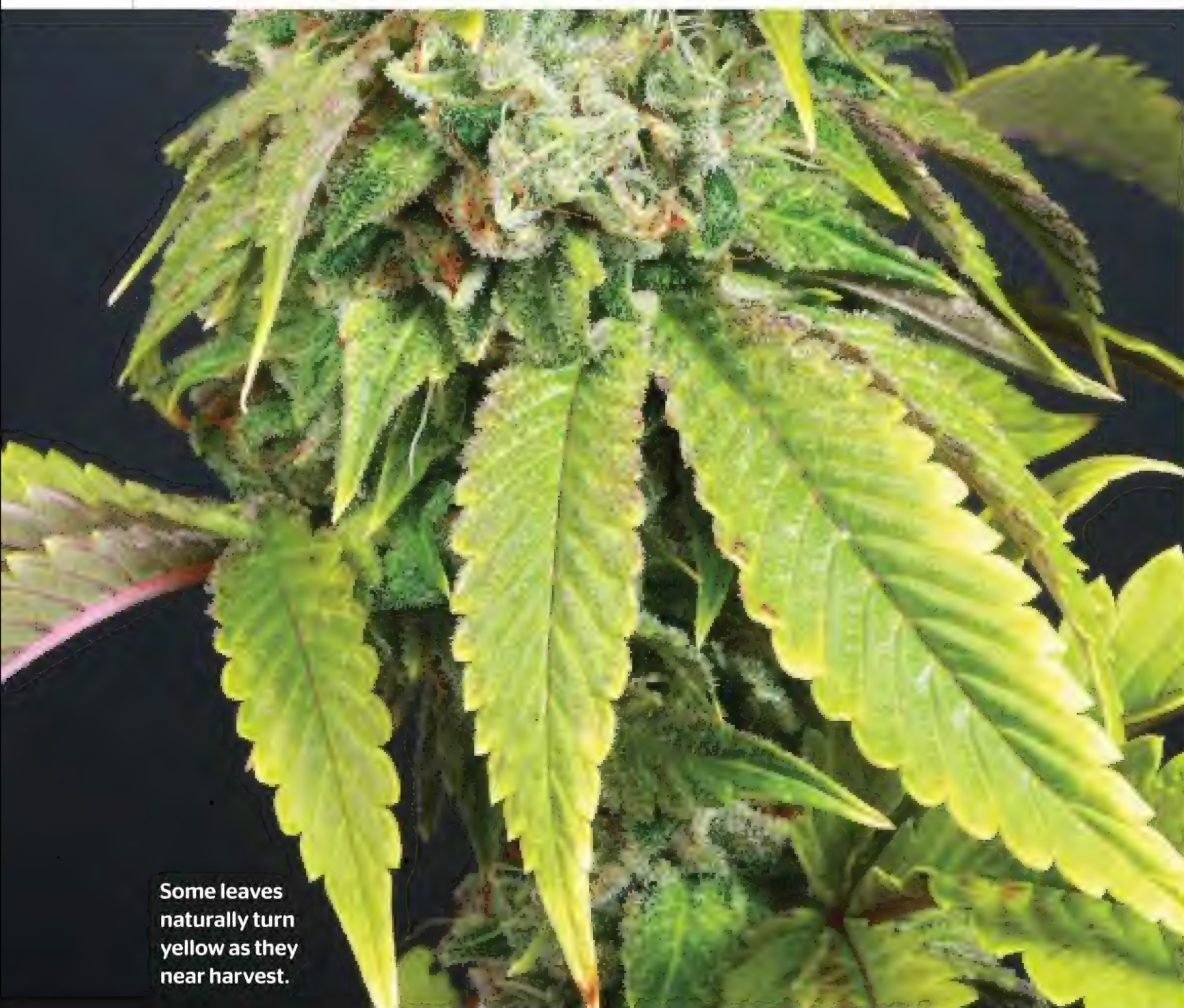
🌿 How can I tell if my plant is male or female? I planted a seed two months ago and still can't figure out what I've got.

Dear RK,
You should be seeing pre-flowers any day now, appearing at the middle of the node where the branches meet the main stem. Use a loupe to look closely at any growth at this joint. Females will have fuzzy white hairs extending from a teardrop-shaped bract (also known as a calyx); male pre-flowers resemble a fist at the end of a very short arm and eventually turn into what looks like a tiny bunch of yellow bananas hanging down.



Female pre-flowers point up with prominent white hairs.

Danko Tip: Raise your growlights as your plants grow instead of letting the plants grow up to the light.



Some leaves naturally turn yellow as they near harvest.

water before you need to start adding vegetative nutrients that are higher in nitrogen (N). Hydroponically grown plants will need at least a mild nutrient solution from the moment they show roots. Once you've decided to flower your plants (soil or hydro), you'll need to start adding flowering nutrients higher in phosphorous (P) and potassium (K).

SUBJECT: **Yellowing Leaves**

FROM: **Mark**

🌱 As my outdoor plants bud, the big fan leaves are starting to yellow from the bottom. Should I cut them off?

Dear Mark,

It's perfectly okay, as well as effective, to remove yellowing leaves. Typically, as plants mature, the lower leaves start to yellow since they're no longer being used to convert light into cellular growth. Removing yellow leaves allows more light to reach the lower branches and prevents diseases and pests by eliminating the vulnerable places where they can thrive. This is the reason why sticky pest strips are yellow: Bugs are attracted to the color of struggling plant growth so they can begin their attack at a weak spot.

Removing healthy leaves is not recommended, however, because they serve as "power plants" that absorb light and give the plant energy to grow. Some selective removal is okay, but always err on the side of caution when taking off fan leaves. Remember that the natural yellowing that occurs toward the end of the life cycle is a good sign that nutrients are leaching out of your plant, resulting in cleaner-burning and better-tasting buds.

SUBJECT: **Spider Mites!**

FROM: **Compost Tim**

🌱 Danny, help! I've found spider mites on my beloved Sensi Star mother plants and I don't know what to do. I've already fought them off with three types of sprays and brought in ladybugs as well as predator mites. After a few weeks, the spider mites are back and seem even tougher than before, if you can believe it. I don't want to go nuclear (a.k.a. drop a toxic fogger bomb). I pride myself on organic methods, but I'm at the end of my rope!

SUBJECT: **Online Seeds**

FROM: **Chadwick**

🌱 I live in the USA and wanted to know if it's illegal to order seeds online, and also if it's a bad idea?

Dear Chadwick,

Yes, it is illegal, however, many people do it. The truth is that ordering seeds online requires entering into a murky territory with regard to the integrity of your transaction. Complaints abound about fly-by-night companies that send nothing or—even worse, in some cases—questionable seeds of dubious origin.

If you want to find a legitimate seed retailer, the best thing is to do some research. How long have they been around? What's their customer service like? How many complaints have been made? Better yet, take a look at my Seed Bank Hall of Fame at hightimes.com/seed-bankhalloffame. These are my choices for companies that have proven their worth with years of diligent breeding, the creation of many Cannabis Cup winners and excellent customer service.

SUBJECT: **How Much Water?**

FROM: **Anaheim Angel**

🌱 How often am I supposed to water my plants, and when do I start adding a nutrient solution?

Dear AA,

Plants need to be watered differently depending on their stage of growth and how much of a root system they have. Young plants with a tiny root system require smaller amounts of water more frequently, while larger, more established plants need a full soaking every day. Flowering plants also need more water than vegetating plants in order to supply enough fuel to build buds.

One good rule of thumb is to pick up each individual container after watering to get an idea of how it feels when full. Then, once the first few inches of mix at the top of the container have dried out, pick it up again to feel its weight. Eventually, you'll be able to tell exactly which plants need how much water and act accordingly.

As for nutrients, plants in soil mixes can usually go a few weeks with plain

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Danko Tip: Let water sit in an open container overnight before watering to allow chlorine to dissipate into the air.

Dear CT,

Sounds to me like you're running out of options. Your plants may just be too bushy, with enough hiding places for the mites and their eggs to survive your attacks and regroup. Instead, you may have to take a few cuttings, kill the moms and start over in a sterilized room.

Once you're sure the clones you've taken have rooted, get rid of the infested plants, all of the soil and everything else in the room where mites can hide. Then make a 10% bleach/90% water solution and go to town with a mop, swabbing every possible surface in the room (after removing the lights, ballasts and any other equipment, of course).

Dunk the cuttings frequently in a mild organic miticide solution such as neem oil and water, and be sure they're mite-free before returning them to your grow space. With fewer places for the pests to hide, you should be able to stay mite-free (or at least control their population in your favor) for years to come.



Cloning machines can take some of the guesswork out of rooting cuttings.

SUBJECT: **Whiteflies Suck**

FROM: **AppleBomb**

🌱 I have a whitefly infestation! I've been spraying with Einstein Oil two to three times a week and putting sticky traps all around the area, but this isn't really helping, as the traps fill up quickly, only to be replaced and fill up quickly again.

Dear AppleBomb,

Whiteflies feed on the underside of plant leaves, draining them of moisture, slowing growth and leaving telltale slimy marks on the leaf tops. Typically, they enjoy moist conditions, so overwatering and high humidity can invite outbreaks or exacerbate an existing infestation.

The oil you're using can be effective if applied properly. Reapply it weekly and be sure to get the undersides of leaves and the surface of the soil, where whiteflies like to lay their eggs. And always remove dead or damaged leaves from the area, as they can harbor whiteflies and their larvae as well.

One effective method for dealing with whiteflies is the introduction of predators such as green lacewing larvae or ladybugs. These can be ordered through the mail or purchased at nurseries, but remember that multiple, well-timed applications

will be necessary to truly control harmful insect populations.

Companion plants such as marigolds and nasturtiums can help repel whiteflies as well. My online buddy and pot-pest expert MyNameStitch also recommends permethrin, which is safe for edible plants and can be used through early flowering if necessary.

SUBJECT: **How to Clone**

FROM: **Beanie Man**

🌱 I've always grown from seeds, but it's sometimes annoying not knowing exactly what I'll get. How would I go about taking clones in order to have reliable strains that I can trust to be females and will grow alike?

Dear B.M.,

Cloning is simply the process of cutting a shoot from the plant and then inducing it to grow roots. This ensures that each clone will be identical to its mother plant, resulting in uniform growth and a level canopy height.

To obtain a clone, use a sharp blade to remove a 3- to 5-inch shoot from your mother plant, cutting at a 45-degree angle just below the node (the place where the

branch protrudes from the stalk). The shoot should have at least three sets of leaves above the cut, and the cut end must be immediately dipped in rooting hormone (typically a powder or gel) and then planted in the moistened medium of your choice.

Clones need to be kept in warm, moist conditions under lights. Within one to two weeks, roots should be visible from the bottom of the medium. Your cuttings are now ready to be transplanted into larger containers for full-fledged vegetative growth.

SUBJECT: **Fungus Gnats**

FROM: **SOS (Sick of Swatting)**

🌱 How do I get rid of fungus gnats?

Dear SOS,

These small black flies are truly annoying and can prove expensive over time, since their larvae feed on roots, causing damage to the plants if left unchecked. Their presence is also a surefire indicator of overwatering.

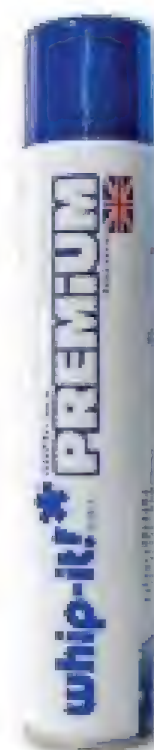
Yellow sticky traps will help control the problem. Fungus gnats are attracted to the color yellow, and many of the mature ones will end up stuck to the traps when hung at plant level. To get rid of the larvae,



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Danko Tip: Ideal growroom temperature during the day should be around 70-75 degrees while nighttime temps should be 60-65 degrees.

drench the soil with a biological larvicide such as Gnatrol twice weekly for one month, and spray diluted neem oil on the surface of your soil mix. The gnats' life cycle is less than eight days, so you should be rid of them shortly.

The best way to avoid the problem of fungus gnats altogether is to deny a comfortable home to the little buggers. They prefer the top layer of a grow medium that's moist and warm. Instead, bottom-feed your plants using a wick system or purchase some self-watering containers specially made to water from below. The plants' roots will pull up only what they need, and the top layer will be a much less desirable place for fungus gnats to lay their eggs.

SUBJECT: **When to Harvest**

FROM: **Kind Kevin**

🌱 I've been growing for just over four months and harvested my first crop. I think it turned out pretty good, but I'm not sure I chose the right time to harvest, because this weed makes me and all my amigos sleepy. I'm aware that I should be checking the trichomes in order to tell when to harvest, but what's the proper color for this?

Dear Kevin,
You're referring to the color within the glandular trichomes, the tiny "crystals" on the buds best visible under magnification. The proper time to harvest your cannabis is when the trichome heads have just

turned from clear to cloudy, and before too many have become amber. The color change will be obvious as long as you're looking at the center of the gland head perched atop its stalk. I'd recommend using a 100x scope in order to get a better view.

Some people enjoy the more lethargic stone from pot harvested a week or two late, but most cannabis connoisseurs prefer "milky" trichomes at full maturity and ripeness, before any degradation of the essential oils sets in. However, medical marijuana patients may benefit from a later harvest in order to maximize certain pain-relieving qualities.

SUBJECT: **What's the Cure?**

FROM: **Out-do in Idaho**

🌱 What's the best way to cure my harvest after chopping it down?

Dear Out-do,
Cannabis farmers who overlook the curing process do a great injustice to their harvest. Curing slowly "sweats" moisture from the inside of buds that may appear dry on the surface. Removing this moisture, along with the excess chlorophyll that gives fresh pot its unpleasantly harsh "green" flavor, makes for better-tasting and cleaner-burning buds.

Several important factors determine the perfect cure. Chopped branches should be hung to dry for at least four days, depending on the humidity at harvest time, and preferably more than a week. When the trimmed buds feel popcorn-dry on the outside and the stems crack when bent, it's time to jar up the colas. Use sealable glass jars and open them often at first to release trapped moisture. It's amazing how much water is still deep within your buds; within hours of jarring "dry" nugs, they will feel moist again.

The best cure is always a slow cure. The most important thing to avoid is letting the buds mold due to too much moisture in the jars. Buds left in a cool, dark place for several months will provide a smoke with all of the hallmarks of properly cured pot: smooth, earthy and pleasant, with a light, white ash. Plus you never need to keep relighting joints of well-cured weed—they burn clean, without the coal-like properties so often found in commercial crops.

Remember, growers, don't give up so close to the finish line. Be sure to cure! 🌿







These branches of Mr. Nice will hang to dry before curing in glass jars.

What's Your Vape Temp? How to BuzzCraft in the Vaporizer Age

In the past years the vaporizer technology has grown significantly. Numerous vapes varying from the desktop vaporizer, portable vaporizer and even the so called pen vaporizer have been presented to the market. However, what is not well explained is why these vaporizers are beneficial over smoking...and how do you get the most out of them?

At the end of the day, we've been told that vaporizers are more efficient, more discreet and even healthier; but did you know that if used correctly, you can "Dial in Your High"? Really, I'm not kidding...this is the ingenious art only enjoyed by the connoisseurs. That's right, specific temperature control is not only relevant to rid cannabis of the harmful carcinogens, but also allows a user to "Buzzcraft with Vape Temp" by selecting the compounds and cannabinoids which they wish to vaporize based upon the specific boiling points.

How does this work? According to whatsyourvapetemp.com, vaporization works like this- a user sets their vaporizer to a specific temperature, let's say 320°F. Within cannabis lives a variety of cannabinoids, which at a specific boiling point (think water) begin to vaporize and are ready to lift off through inhalation. At 320°F, the user will be taking in Delta 9 THC and perhaps a little CBD and more than likely have a light euphoric high that is perfect for daytime creativity.

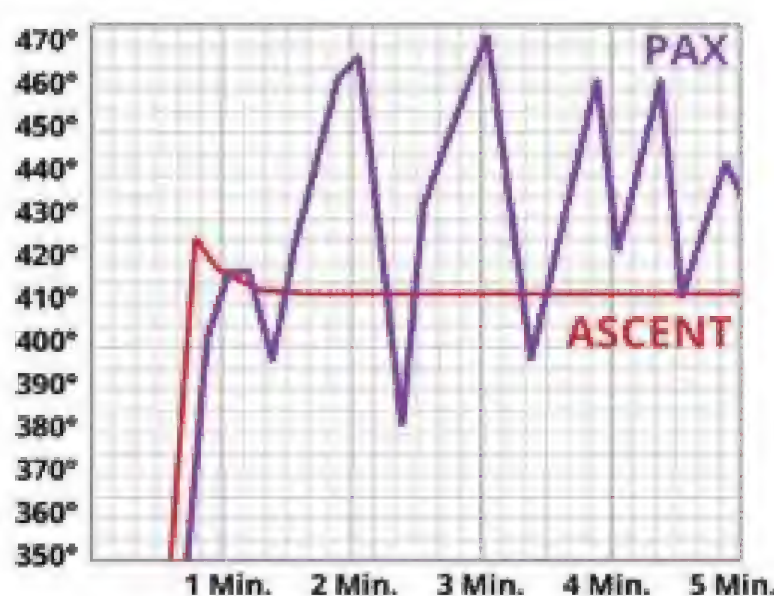
	CBN: 365°F + - Sedative
	Delta8 THC: 347°-352°F - Euphoric and calm
	CBD: 320°-356°F - Calmness
	Delta9 THC: 314°F - Euphoric, may cause anxiety with no CDB content

- **"Euphoric- Cerebral" High:** Use lower vaporizer temperatures to deliver a more mental and energetic high, less of a body high. This high can be considered more discreet with less of an aroma and vapor cloud, more of a clear odorless mist and lasts 1-2 hours.
- **"Sedative- Body" High:** Higher vaporizer temperatures deliver more of a body high with pain relieving and sedation effects from boiling more cannabinoids and terpenoids, such as linalool and THCV. This is less discreet as there is more of an aroma and vapor cloud due to more terpenoids being released and lasts 3-4 hours.

Which Vaporizer should I use?

With many choices out there, it may be difficult to decide which vaporizer to use to try out Buzzcrafting.

The key to Buzzcrafting is precision temp control. Personally, we like to take our vapes with us, so decided to take a look at the top 3 premium portables out there. We measured the bowl temperature of each to find which is the most accurate.



* testing performed by a 3rd party Lab.

Firefly temperature was inconclusive dependant on how long you hold the button. Pax temperature varied $\pm 80^\circ\text{F}$. The Ascent by DaVinci remained accurate by $\pm 1^\circ\text{F}$.

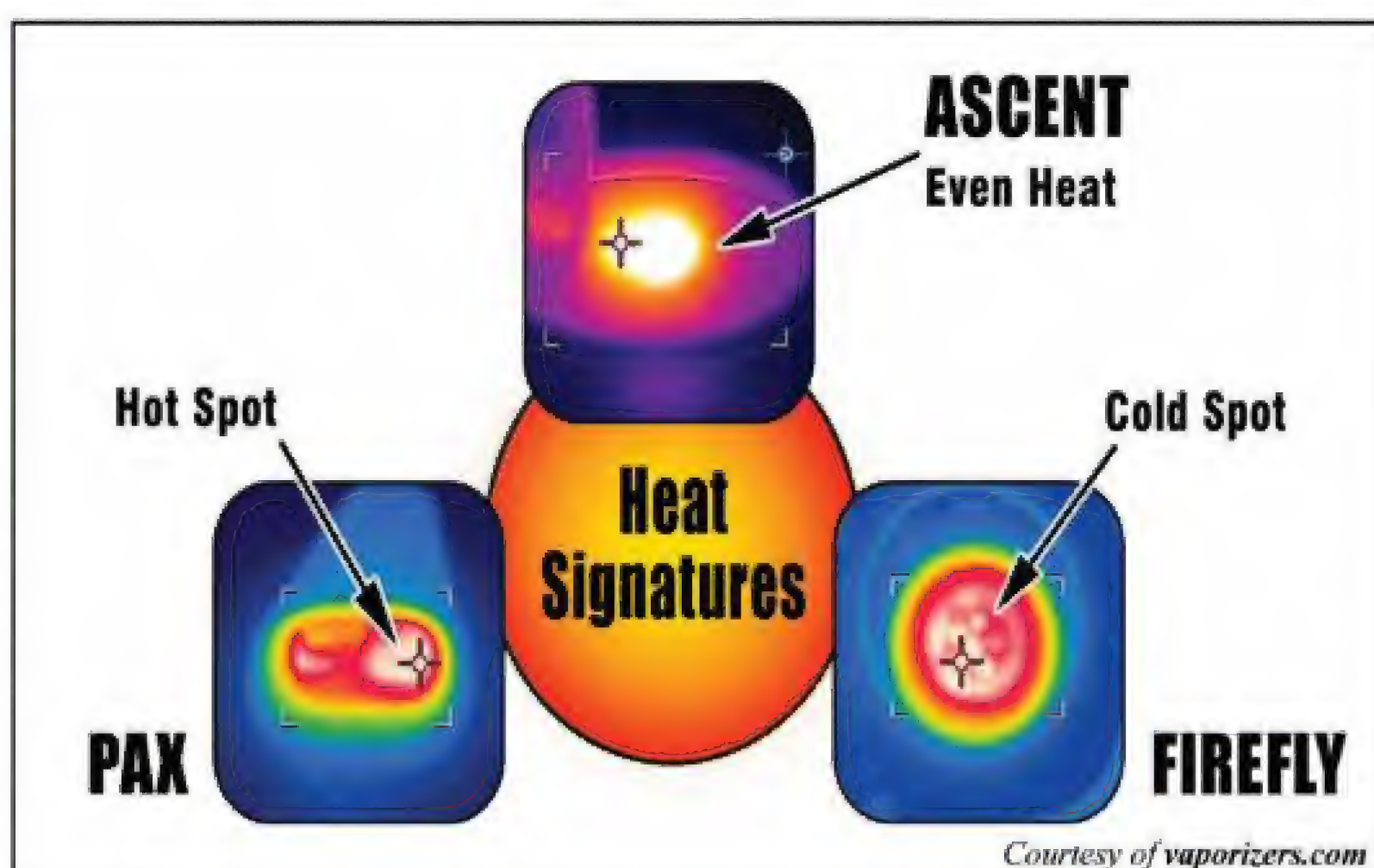
The winner of temp consistency is the Ascent by DaVinci. The Ascent uses a heavy ceramic chamber to achieve this consistent temp and gives long infrared waves, ensuring even cooking to the center of the bowl. DaVinci's software checks that temperature 200 times per second to ensure the temp stays $\pm 1^\circ\text{F}$. We conclude the Ascent is the #1 Buzzcrafter.

How do you BuzzCraft?

Let us know about your experiences on our forum or join the conversation. # buzzcrafting
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Courtesy of vaporizers.com

By using a FLIR camera, all vaporizers were tested for their heat signatures. The Ascent by DaVinci has a strong advantage.



Reflecting on my two decades with *High Times*.

While *High Times* celebrates its 40th anniversary this year, 2014 also marks a more personal milestone for me—my 20th year with the company.

When I was first hired as a college art intern back in September 1994, I never could've imagined that two decades later I'd still be here, now serving as the magazine's senior editor. It's impossible to sum up in one page all of the amazing opportunities and experiences that working at the world's most notorious magazine for half of its existence has afforded me over the years.

I've gotten high with counterculture icons like Ozzy Osbourne, Snoop Dogg, Cypress Hill, George Clinton, Jason Mewes (Jay & Silent Bob), Cheech and Chong, and Harold and Kumar. I've met and/or interviewed such celebrities as Stephen Colbert, Rick Steves, Ron Jeremy, Doug Benson and Tony Clifton, as well as music legends like Rush, Robby Krieger and Ray Manzarek (the Doors), Joan Jett, Phil Anselmo (Pantera), Johnny Winter, System of a Down and Queens of the Stone Age. I've gone on tour with Sepultura, played pool with Jerry Cantrell, roadied for Type O Negative and been busted with Blue Cheer. I drank absinthe with Monster Magnet, Jägermeister with Slayer, and was even bought a beer by late guitar great Dimebag Darrell.

I've partied with some of the sexiest women on the planet, including Tera Patrick, Jenna Jameson, Adrienne Curry, Aria Giovanni, Tila Tequila, Jenna Haze, Nikki Nova and dozens of *Penthouse* Pets. I've tripped balls at Burning Man, been tattooed inside Alex Grey's Chapel of Sacred Mirrors and backstage at Lollapalooza, produced a rock compilation for High Times Records, and judged an air-guitar competition alongside Andrew W.K. and *The Daily Show*'s Jason Jones.

I've appeared on *The Howard Stern Show*, *Headbangers Ball*, *Geraldo at Large*, the History Channel, CNN, NBC and even in the ill-fated *HT* feature film *Potluck*.

I've hosted six Doobie Awards shows, three Miss High Times pageants and a nationwide stoner rock show on Sirius XM radio. My visage has been made into a pipe, a tattoo, a tarot card and a comic-book superhero. Hell, I've even run for president (well ... *sort of*). I've attended 34 Cannabis Cups and smoked just about everything there is to smoke in just about every way there is to smoke it (including a 24K gold joint and out of a porn star's ass). To put it another way: I've lived out nearly every adolescent male fantasy imaginable.

But don't think for one second that my time here has just been about hedonism and wish fulfillment: It's also been a journey of profound personal growth and maturation. Before *High Times*, I was just another dorky, introverted metal-head who'd never even been on a plane. Since then, I've travelled all over: Austin, Barcelona, Boston, Denver, Detroit, Jamaica, Mallorca, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle ... and of course, Amsterdam. In my 20-plus visits to the cannabis capital of Europe, I've done an exposé on the coffeeshop industry, spent an hour in jail for handing out weed, met the love of my life and proposed to her while sailing along its canals.

Perhaps most importantly though, I've developed a profound commitment to social justice and civil liberty. I've participated in protest marches like the May Day legalization rally and Occupy Wall Street. I've spoken out against Drug War injustice from the stages of the Boston Freedom Rally, Seattle Hempfest and Denver 4/20 Rally. I've fought for legalization alongside legends of the counterculturement like Jack Herer, NORML's Keith Stroup and Alan St. Pierre, Dana Beal, John Sinclair, Vivian McPeak, the late Stephen Gaskin and many others, and learned from them the true meaning (and cost) of freedom.

So you see, to me, *High Times* is so much more than just a job or a magazine—it's my family, my identity, my purpose ... my *life*. It's the life of an outlaw, as envisioned by our illustrious founder—one filled with excitement, intoxication, adventure and activism. So thank you, *High Times*, for making all of my pubescent pipe dreams come true, and for turning this once-shy young stoner into the cool-ass—dare I say, *infamous*—motherfucker you see before you today. ✨

Delve deeper into Bobby's 20 years at High Times—including his Top 40 Coolest Career Highlights—through videos, articles and galleries at hightimes.com/bobbyblack20years.



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anarchy in the USA

continued from page 52 some music there. We flew all over the island, which helped to get Tom's best friend, Jack Coombs, some hours toward his pilot's license, but we never ran into Rotten.

On March 6, 1978, *Hustler* publisher Larry Flynt was shot in Atlanta by the proverbial "lone nut." This event thrust *High Times* into financial disarray, because Flynt's distribution company was also handling the distribution of *HT*, and further frustrated Tom's attempts to finish his punk rock film. He had dispatched the film crew to London, where they filmed Generation X, Sham 69 and X-Ray Spex, as well as the infamous Sid and Nancy interview, in which Sid is so high he can barely speak.

However, things went rapidly downhill after Tom went to Los Angeles and met with the major studio executives, who treated him like a fool. "Who wants to see a movie about some band that broke up six months ago?" was the typical reaction to the film's rough cut. Soon after that, Jack Coombs died when his plane hit a tree as he was trying to land with a pot payload at a small Georgia landing strip. Tom, who was flying in a separate plane behind him, could only watch as his best friend burned to death, along with a small fortune in marijuana.

The last time I saw Tom in person was at the ill-fated *Punk Magazine* Awards ceremony on October 13, 1978. In attendance was the Sex Pistols' manager, Malcolm McLaren, along with Lou Reed, Blondie, the Ramones, the Heartbreakers and a host of others. Unfortunately, Sid Vicious had been arrested for killing Nancy Spungen the day before, so everyone was in a weird mood. The audience took delight in heckling the event and had trashed the place by the end of the night. I was mortified. I didn't know Tom was even there, but just after the awards show ended, he stopped by my table and offered some words of encouragement: "Great event! I'm sure you'll get a lot of publicity from it!"

So what do I think, looking back on it all now? Truth is stranger than fiction, and there's a lot of fiction out there about Tom Forçade. But as weird as he was, Tom was also the best mind the counterculture ever had, and he's been missed by almost everyone who knew him. I only wish that someone would have had the sense to allow Tom to make his movie back in 1978. ✱

John Holmstrom is the founding editor of Punk magazine.

Narc Shadows

continued from page 106 is using people with your skills to eradicate marijuana?"

"Um ... that's an honest question. I think it's a waste of taxpayers' money, it's a waste of jet fuel—and about the last five years of my career, I did it because it was my job. And you can definitely publish this: I got to a point, I flew in the left seat of a 58-cal. Ranger OH-58 Kiowa Warrior helicopter, and if I saw a patch of dope, I would just ignore it. Like I said, the last five years I was done with the competition thing. I was going through a divorce, and I was just absolutely lookin' at the calendar, counting my days."

"What's the bust that you're most proud of?"

"The most proud bust? We found, oh, like 40 plants behind a house and called it in. The DA, the DEA—and all them were knuckleheads, of course—but they rolled in and searched the basement, and it was a dub station for child porn. This was before DVDs—they had machines making VCR tapes of all kinds of child porn, plus they had methamphetamine, heroin ... you name it, it was there. We slapped a couple beer glasses together that night. We did good, because the gentleman that lived there needed to go to jail."

Scars

These days, Darth Raider is not a healthy man. He has collapsed arches in both feet, a torn meniscus in his right knee, six titanium screws in his right shoulder and three more in his left. One afternoon, he started showing me his scars, rolling up his sleeve to point out the gunshot wound that he received during a crack-house raid, and then turning around so I could see the scar from the bullet that nicked his spine in another drug-house raid six years later. Darth returned fire in the first incident and hit his target between the eyes. He can't remember anything about the second shooting except for waking up in Walter Reed Hospital two weeks later and being told that he would probably never walk again. Unbeknownst to him at the time, his wife was already in possession of this information and, while he was still in a coma, drained their bank account and filed for divorce.

Darth was given a bronze star for the man he killed in the crackhouse raid, and the guys in his unit pressured him to get a "death" tattoo, a heart with devil horns permanently inked into his ankle. I've heard him say more than once that he was forced to kill that man, continued on page 138

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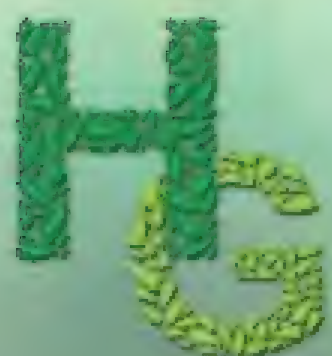
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Narc Shadows

continued from page 136 and there seems to be a disconnect between his soldier's brain and his human one when it comes to that event. As a sniper, he was trained to respond without hesitation. He knew that the logic of his decision was irreproachable, but a man is composed of more than just logic.

The one memory that plagues him the most concerns the death of his friend and dope-hunting partner. As previously mentioned, the competition to uncover marijuana gardens was fierce among the different units and agencies involved, so sometimes, on Sundays, Darth and his friend would take their helicopter and go "pre-spotting." They would whirl around looking for gardens so that, come Monday morning, they could fly straight to that spot and make a bust while the rest of the boys were still drinking their coffee. One Sunday, Darth's friend flew out without him and ran into some heavy weather that brought the helicopter down. Darth was part of the search party that found the crash site a few days later. I will not tell you the details of how he found his friend's body, only that he choked back tears as he described them to me.

"It just ate at me and ate at me and ate at me," Darth said, "and it just got bigger and bigger and bigger."

After diagnosing him with post-traumatic stress disorder, the Veterans Administration prescribed Darth Percocet, Ambien, Lunestra, chlorthalidone and various blood pressure medicines. He quit going to counseling, because being around other vets with the same problems somehow made it worse. Darth's a drinker, and in tandem with the pain and allergy medications he takes, it sometimes gets the best of him. One morning, we met for breakfast at Waffle House. Darth knelt to pray before sitting, which he always does before a meal, and then ordered the chili. And I'm not sure if he'd been nervous about the prospect of being interviewed or maybe just had a bad night, but his head hung heavy over his breakfast like someone had replaced his brain with tombstone marble. I suggested he go take a nap; the interview could wait.

Darth told me he'd been sleepwalking lately—but more than just walking, he'd been doing military exercises in a somnambulant state, securing the perimeter of his house, pistol in hand. One recent night, when a friend was sleeping over, Darth woke up to find himself standing over his buddy, pointing a gun at his face.

His friend was a vet too and managed to talk him down; he knew the score. Darth has since been storing his firearms at his father's house.

The shining light of Darth Raider's life these days is his daughter, whom he takes to school and to soccer practice regularly. Every Sunday, Darth goes to church. He also takes care of his father, who has cancer. Darth is happiest when he's out enjoying nature, either with friends or alone. He bought a piece of property recently, which he hopes to build on. Although he grew to hate his job toward the end, I believe that retirement disagrees with him even more.

Ironically, I believe the one thing that can help Darth with his PTSD is the plant he hunted most of his adult life.

One night before I arrived, Darth had gone to a fraternity party in the woods and started drinking Jägermeister. Too drunk to drive home, he crashed out in his car on a dirt road. Two cops roused him around sunrise and took him in on a DUI, despite the fact that his keys weren't even in the ignition.

In the drunk tank, one of the deputies assigned to guard his cell—a woman—had a surprise for his cellmates. "Do you know who you're locked up with?" she asked as she held open Darth's wallet, displaying the badge he carries signifying that he's a retired narcotics officer. Three men approached him with ill intent, and Darth pleaded with the deputies to be placed in a different cell. Instead, they took their phones out and started taking pictures of the unfolding drama.

Memories.

As Darth tells it—and I believe him—his tormentors had no idea what kind of trouble they were inviting. Three guys in a drunk tank were no match for a pissed-off and hung-over soldier trained in the combat arts by the most elite program the US military has to offer.

Pissed off that they had to break up a fight that they instigated themselves, the deputies placed Darth in solitary confinement for the next 12 hours.

"It was a tiny concrete room with a stainless steel toilet, and there was urine all over the floor. If I wanted toilet paper, I had to ask for it. I had to sleep on concrete with no blanket, no pillow, nothing. I had to just sleep on concrete that had urine on it, and the next day they opened up a little slot and were talkin' to me like a dog, and I think it was out of pure jealousy because they were wannabe cops and I worked with the highest level—DEA, FBI. They stuck the tray of breakfast in and dropped it—didn't give me a chance to grab it. It bounces in a puddle of urine.

"What did it feel like, being on the other side of the law?" I asked.

"You know, you have to give me a minute to think," Darth replied. Then he paused. "I've ruined a lot of people's lives doing my job," he said. "I've had their farms confiscated, all their vehicles confiscated, and I feel a little, little bit sorry ... but I was doing my job."

Many soldiers spend their post-combat lives looking for closure. Stories abound about Vietnam vets who went back to that country in search of something that those of us who didn't fight there can't really understand. The moral gray zone that a soldier faces when he enters a battlefield is likewise difficult for us civilians to comprehend. He's been given a mission by his commanding officer and, to a certain extent, the right to violate the laws of God and man, nature and reason, to perform it. Search and destroy.

At present, marijuana users are on the cusp of prevailing in the long war that's been waged against them—but if there's ever to be a lasting peace, both the victors and the vanquished must learn to co-exist. I have no right to be the arbitrator of any treaty, nor do I pretend to speak on behalf of my side in this conflict. I'm just saying that eventually, veterans of both sides are going to find themselves on line together at the supermarket.

Despite our differences, Darth Raider and I have become friends; I can't spend a week with a guy—eating, drinking and talking about family—without developing some kind of kinship. He called me recently and said he dumped all his pharmaceuticals and has lightened up on the drinking. Ironically, I believe the one thing that can help Darth with his PTSD is the plant he hunted most of his adult life. I even put him in touch with other vets I know who treat their PTSD with marijuana, though until his DUI is behind him, Darth is subject to random urine tests. But people can change, and I hope Darth pulls through. War is hell, no matter which side you fight for. ✱

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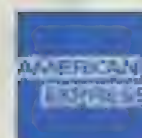
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High Times Takes Off

continued from page 44 Cindy Ornstein passed away in 2005, but her voice lives on in the article that she helped devise for issue #1: "A Lady Dealer Talks."

6. The first *High Times* party almost happened at the Plaza Hotel.

If all of the people who claim to have attended *High Times*' first party were gathered together in the same room, you'd need Grand Central Station to handle the overflow. In fact, there have been many *High Times* parties over the years, all of them "crawling with the usual suspects among New York's 'beautiful people,'" as Robert Sabbag describes it in his dope memoir *Down Around Midnight*. But I actually helped to throw the very first party.

The evidence exists in the strange notations that appear in my 1974 journal, beginning on Monday, April 8: "Plaza with Tom," it says. On Tuesday, May 2: "uptown w/Forcade, Yossarian and Charlie." But what were we doing at the swanky Plaza Hotel? Why were we uptown? And who was Charlie?

A week later, on Tuesday, May 7: "uptown hotels." Then on Thursday, May 9: "Impeachment begins, Gramercy Park Hotel," with a note that says we returned there the next day. And on Wednesday, May 22: "8PM meeting/Forcade abt party."

It seems that as the historic impeachment of Richard Nixon rocked the nation, Tom and I were trying to secure a venue for a celebration of *High Times*' first issue. The Plaza Hotel would probably *not* have been happy with the gathering, but the Gramercy Park Hotel—then in a shabby state of benign neglect—was perfect for a pothead bash.

We rented a large suite of

connected meeting rooms on a lower floor. I don't recall the catering arrangements, if any. A very distinctive feature of the event was a pair of towering brass fountains, rented from a party-supply outfit in Harlem. Red wine gushed from multiple spouts on one of the fountains, white wine from the other. We also established a *High Times* tradition by installing not one but two 50-pound tanks of nitrous oxide so there would be no waiting on line, along with plentiful balloons.

According to my journal, the party took place on Thursday, May 23, 1974, from 7 to 10 p.m. Who showed up and what occurred, my journal fails to say. But it must have gone well! In fact, I'm sure it did, because a single scrawled word in my journal sums it up, both the party and pretty much the whole *High Times* adventure: "Fun."

6½. Seeing the first issue of *High Times* was pretty cool—and hard to describe in retrospect.

On that particular spring night, after unloading the truck (printer Michael Prestegord says, "That was me driving! Same truck I drove to Woodstock!"), I imagine we sat back on the office's threadbare secondhand couches, smoked a joint with Tom and marveled at the 50-page publication—neither as slick as the glossy newsstand magazines of the day, nor as funky as the underground newspapers where many of us had toiled. The next issue would be better: more professional, with real ads instead of ones clipped from other publications. Maybe even a full-color cover. If there was a next issue

We could not have foreseen how long *High Times* would last—or that Tom would be gone in just a few years. A lot of bongwater has passed under the bridge. But that night, for just a moment, we held the unlimited possibilities of a truly New Age in our hands. ✱

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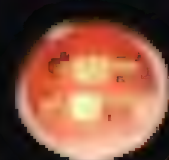
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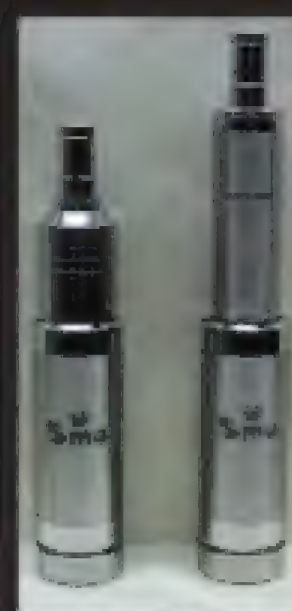
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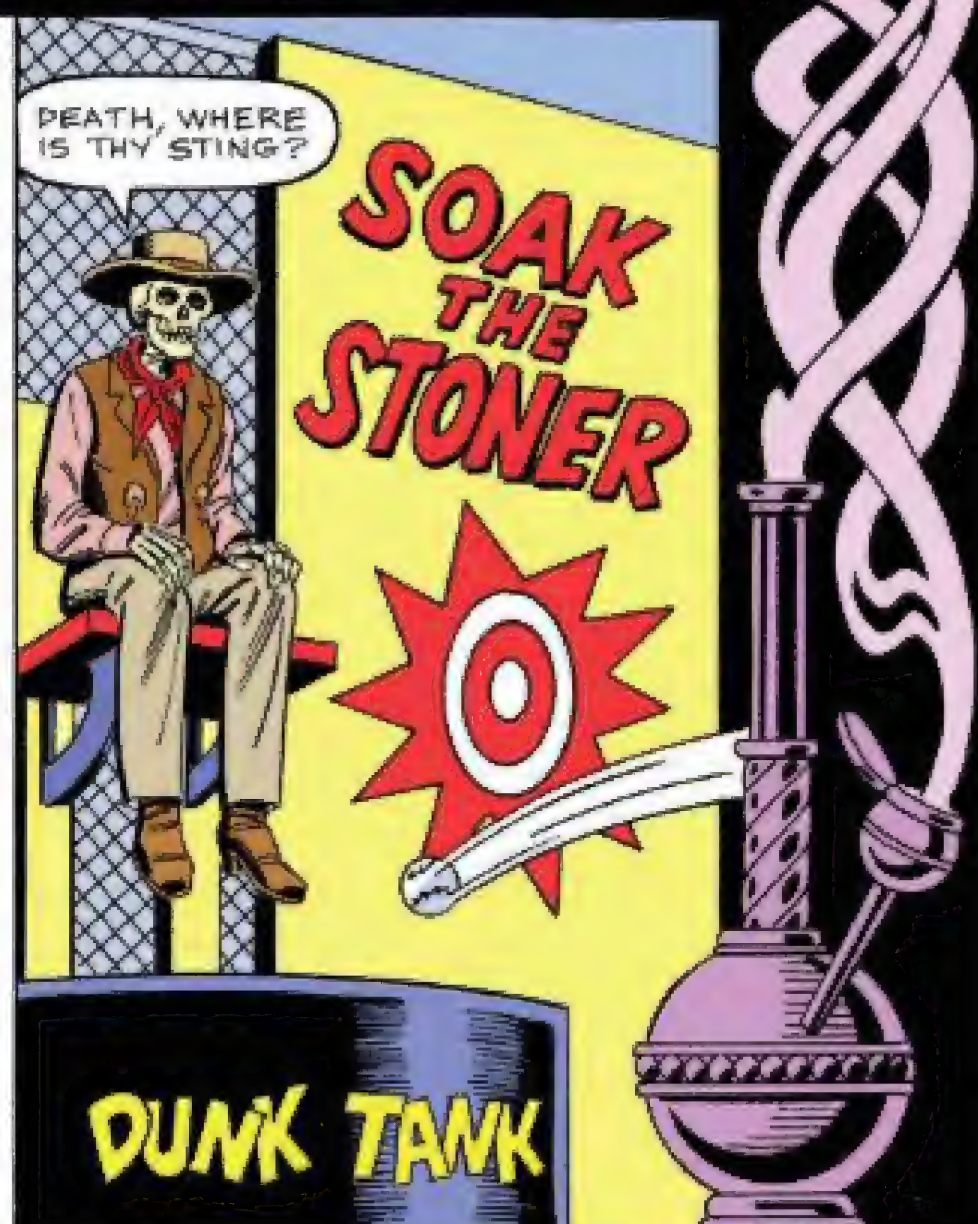
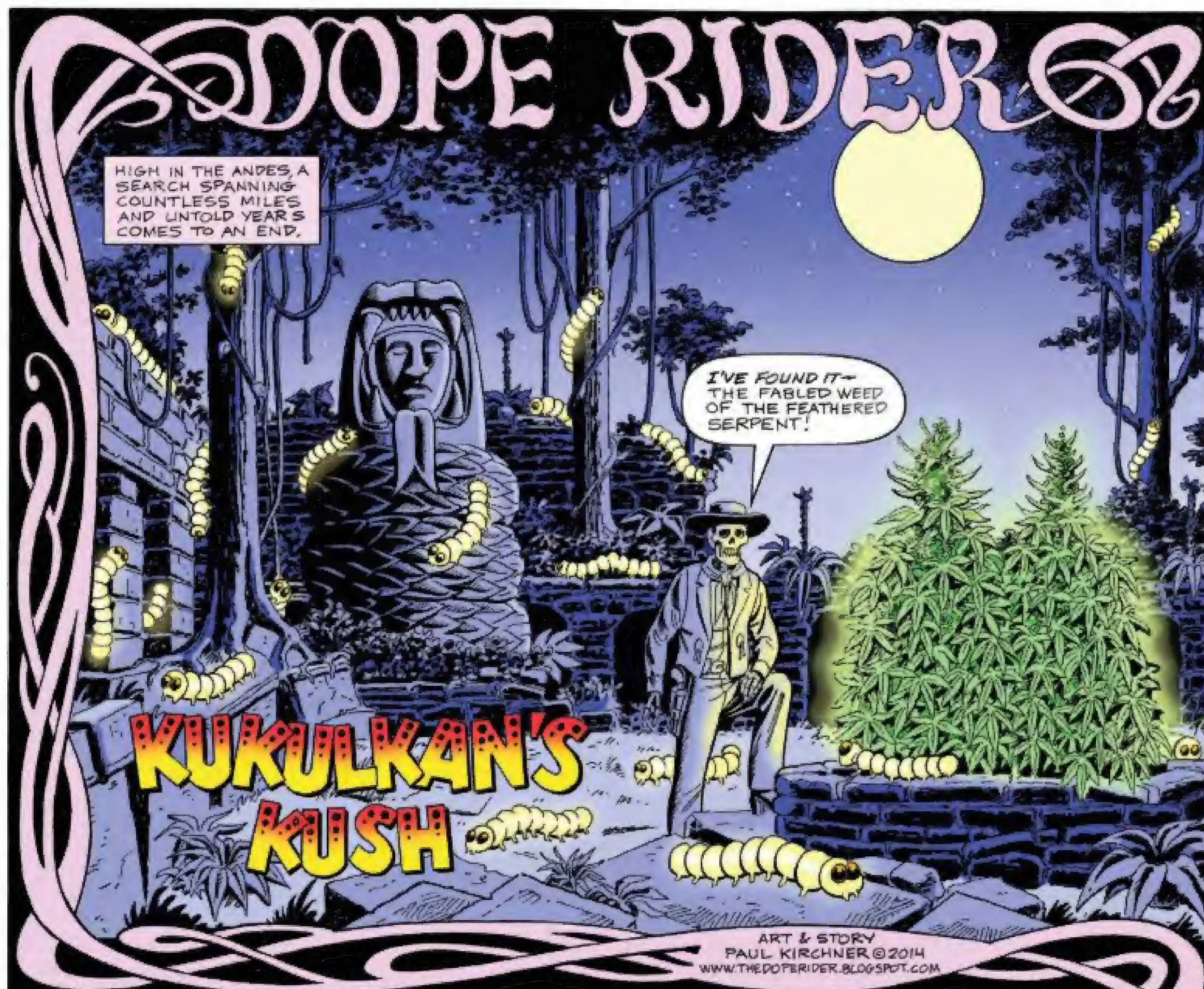
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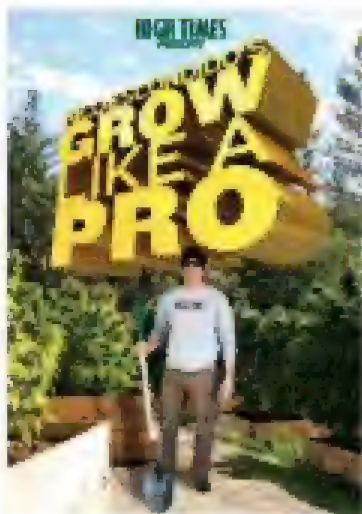


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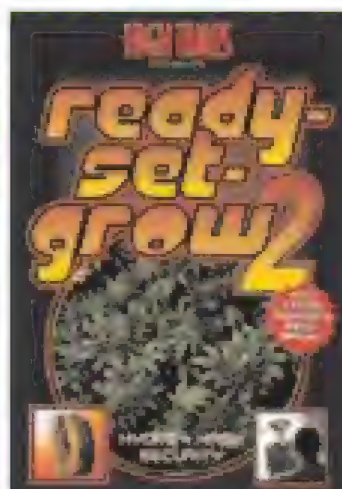
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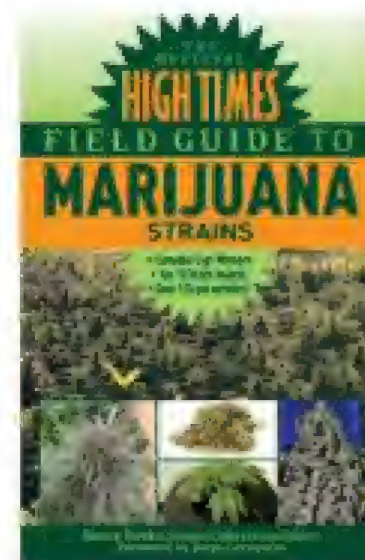
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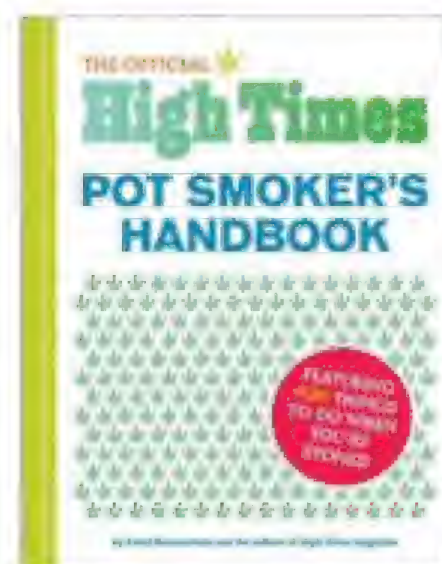
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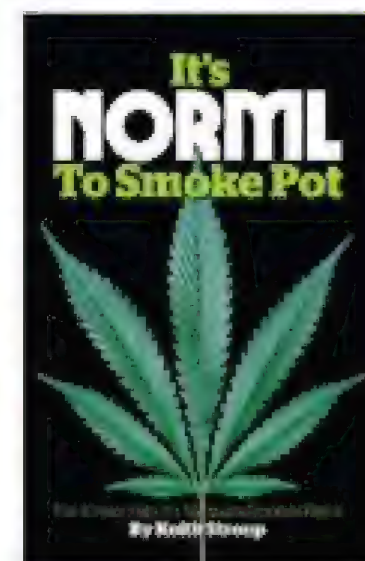
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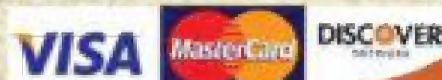
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